Daily Report

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FBIS-NES-94-041 *2 March 1994*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, Somali Leader Discuss Crisis

NC0203121694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today conferred with Somali Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who is visiting Cairo. The two officials discussed the Arab League's role in finding a peaceful settlement to the Somali crisis, especially after the withdrawal of foreign troops.

Speaking afterward, Mohamed said he and the secretary general reviewed basic issues relating to the crisis in Somalia. He noted that the Arab League has always been in the lead in its efforts to resolve this crisis. He added that 12 Somali faction leaders are visiting Cairo at the invitation of President Mubarak to hold talks that seek to rescue the Somali people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that they reviewed the recent developments in Somalia and praised the role undertaken by President Mubarak to achieve national reconciliation and resolve the Somali crisis. He noted that the Arab League is eager to consolidate any role that may help the Somali people emerge from their predicament. He added that a meeting with the remaining Somali faction leaders visiting Cairo will be held on Sunday at the Arab League headquarters.

League Secretary Comments on Lockerbie Issue

NC0103222694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has reaffirmed the League's stance on how to properly solve the Libyan-Western dispute over the Lockerbie issue through negotiations, mediation, and judicial settlement in line with Clause 33 of the UN Charter's Chapter 6.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained the circumstances of the crisis, noting that in its legal aspect, several countries—the United States, Britain, and France—are asking another country, Libya, to hand over two of its citizens for trial by the authorities of those countries on charges attributed to them.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that in this case the dispute is over a well-known phenomenon in international law called "the extradition of criminals". He explained that international law places certain controls on extradition, including the stipulation that handing over criminals is a sovereign matter which cannot be imposed on any country. Also, he pointed out, there must be a treaty or agreement among the concerned countries according to which a country is committed to handing over its citizens to the country requesting the extradition.

'Abd-al-Majid told MENA that the most recent international trend permits a country to refuse to extradite its nationals. He pointed out that the eighth UN conference on the prevention of crime and the treatment of criminals which was held in Havana in August 1991 approved a model draft agreement for the extradition of criminals, the fourth article of which stated that a country can refuse to extradite an individual who is one of its citizens.

He added that although the Arab League fully condemns the blowing up of the plane in question and the death of innocent victims, yet it believes that, from a purely legal perspective, the United States, Britain, and France have transferred the issue from the legal and judicial sphere to the political sphere, something that is contrary to the original character of the case.

He explained that the U.S. and British judicial systems stipulate that in order to extradite criminals there should be an extradition treaty between the country requesting the extradition and the country which is asked to hand over the wanted individuals. Also, these judicial systems require that a court verdict be issued permitting an act of extradition. He further explained that according to the system applied in France, the Libyan Government can legally hand over the wanted individuals but on condition of reciprocal treatment.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that since there is no extradition treaty between Libya and the three concerned countries, it is difficult to force the Libyan Jamahiriyah to comply.

He noted that Libya has condemned international terrorism and expressed willingness to cooperate in the trial of the suspects in a neutral country. Consequently, he said, it might be appropriate for those three countries to show responsiveness to this Libyan wish and to the good offices that several other parties are making to reach a solution that will maintain Libyan national sovereignty and be in agreement with Article 33 of the UN Charter's which calls for solving disputes among countries by peaceful dialogue.

'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, announced that the League will continue its efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis in a manner that will preserve Libya's dignity and sovereignty.

He added that the Western countries have exploited the UN Security Council for the purpose of issuing resolutions against Libya without fear from any party whatsoever. He said he believes these resolutions are contrary to the UN Charter and represent a dangerous precedent that will undermine the world's confidence in the United Nations.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid recently met with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League, and reviewed with him the developments of the crisis, the Arab League's role in it, and the possibility of holding a meeting of the Arab seven-member committee on the sidelines of the next Arab League meeting in March.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects Israeli Proposals To Return to Talks

NC0103153594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 1 Mar (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has declared that the PLO rejects the Israeli proposals that seek to encourage the PLO to return to the negotiating table. He explained that the measures that the Israeli Government has adopted so far are mere worthless formalities.

In a news conference he held this afternoon, 'Abd-Rabbuh asserted that the Palestinian leadership wishes the peace process to continue and the negotiations to succeed but at the same time it believes that several major requirements need to be met to guarantee the success of this political process.

He announced that the foremost requirement is providing protection and security for the Palestinian people against the terrorists among the Israeli settlers.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian leadership will continue its contacts with all the concerned parties, namely the UN Security Council, the United States, Russia, and the EU in order to fulfill the necessary conditions to resume the negotiations.

The Palestinian official said that the current circumstances do not encourage the resumption of the negotiations because if they were resumed they would remain under the threat of the Israeli settlers' armed terrorism, particularly in the absence of any effective deterrent by the Israeli Government.

He pointed out that the measures and methods employed by the Israeli Army against the Palestinian citizens who were protesting the Hebron massacre caused many of them to be martyred and dozens to be wounded.

He added that the Israeli Government is still adopting limited and nominal measures against a small number of settlers but is using mass punishment against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, such as imposing total curfew and allowing the army to fire at them.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that Israel's disarming of five settlers is a measure that cannot convince anyone that it wishes to provide protection for the Palestinian people, especially when the Palestinians see large numbers of armed settlers walking about in their towns and villages.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that there seems to be a consensus about having international presence in the occupied territories and said this has now become an urgent demand in order to reassure the Palestinians that they will be safe from further violence.

'Abbas: PLO Needs 'Answers' Before Going to U.S.

PM0103114394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] There are mounting Palestinian calls for the suspension of the PLO's participation in the negotiations in protest against the Hebron massacre. What are the expected repercussions of the massacre for the negotiations and the peace process?

['Abbas] What the Israeli settlers have done is a major obstacle in the way of the peace process and reflects the wishes and views of those settlers who rejected the peace process from the beginning out of the belief that it endangers their own interests. They see it undermining their beliefs and the illusions they entertained for decades about "greater Israel." That is why, since the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement and the start of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, they have been provoking the Palestinian population and, in doing so, taking advantage of the privileges they got from the Israeli Government, namely full armament and freedom of movement in the West Bank and the Gaza strip while the Palestinians are forbidden to carry arms and are faced with curfews and movement restrictions.

The settlers, enjoying all these freedoms and privileges, of course reject the peace process. That hostile action will have an impact on the Palestinian people.

As a matter of principle, we have to say that there has been no crime such as that abominable crime committed by those settlers for many years. It (the Hebron massacre) is of the same magnitude as the Kafr Qasim, Qibyah, and Dayr Yasin massacres, and other massacres committed by the Zionist gangs in the past, crimes now committed and carried out by the settlers militias.

We must here hold the Israeli Government responsible because it gave the settler these liberties and because it has special militias.

I do not know why a government which has an army, a police force, and security forces needs militias to "protect" those settlers. If it believes that their presence is abnormal, why keep them where they are? Furthermore, why have settlements which have been deemed unnecessary by the United Nations, the whole world, and a large number of Israelis?

When (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin himself speaks of political settlements and security settlements, he means to say that some of these settlements are unnecessary. We do not believe that the solution to this problem is to be found in the statements and resolutions of condemnation nor in the messages of condolences sent by the Israeli officials. The solution lies in effective

measures to disarm the settlers and reassess many settlements which present daily provocations and cause direct friction between the Palestinian and Israeli people, until such a time when settlement as a whole would end, for, in our view, it was unnecessary to begin with.

[Khashanah] Do you believe that the revival of the intifadah, with the old thrust and even more strongly, would weaken the negotiation trend or strengthen the position of the Palestinian negotiators?

['Abbas] The intifadah was initiated against the occupation and it will continue as long as the occupation continues, and it will grow day after day whenever massacres such as the Hebron al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre are committed and as long as other tragedies befall the Palestinian people. It is an expression of the Palestinian people's determination to end the occupation.

If the Israeli Government wants to coexist with the Palestinians, it must eliminate all the causes of friction and provocation which are real obstacles and barriers in the way of the peace process.

[Khashanah] Will the Palestinian suspension of the negotiations continue until the PLO's request for disarmament of the settlers and freezing of the settlements is granted?

['Abbas] We have summoned the heads of the Palestinian negotiating delegations to leadership headquarters in Tunis for consultation on the measures to be taken in the wake of that massacre.

[Khashanah] Will a Palestinian delegation go to Washington in response to President Clinton's invitation addressed to the PLO and Israel?

['Abbas] In principle, I see no objection to acceptance of the invitation, but before the (Palestinian) leadership says yes or no, we must have answers to many important inquiries handed by brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] to the U.S. ambassador in Tunis.

[Khashanah] Such as?

['Abbas] The purpose of moving the negotiations to Washington, the level of the delegations to the negotiations, and other matters.

[Khashanah] Have you noticed that the number of Palestinians killed under this current Labor government is more than the number of those killed under Likud? That casts heavy shadows on the declared peaceful intentions of the ruling Labor Party.

['Abbas] If we look at the general historical course of events and examine the Arab-Israeli conflict developments, we would notice that the Labor Party controlled the Jewish Agency in the early days and it still does, and it was the Labor Party which founded the state of Israel and fought the 1956, 1967, and 1973 wars against the Arabs. It was also the Labor Party which started the settlements, killed the fedayeen and crush their bones in full view of the whole world. But we are dealing with a state and an institution which, if it differs under different governments on some issues, is always in agreement on many other issues.

Ghawshah Links Resuming Talks to Israeli Measures

JN0203131194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1044 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah, by Sa'id Mu'addi, place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee: The PLO leadership is continuing its consultations with all parties. Does this mean this decision will be crucial and decisive for the peace process?

[Ghawshah] The PLO leadership is continuing its contacts on all levels and in more than one area, whether on the Arab or international levels. In the meantime, the PLO leadership is pursuing political activity on all levels. We would like to say that the support extended to us and the denunciation and condemnation of the massacre perpetrated against our people in Hebron are indications that the world understands and sympathizes with the just Palestinian demands. Moreover, we believe that much of the future of the political process hinges upon the positions to be adopted by Mr. Rabin and his government and on the measures and positions that will be taken toward the Palestinian demands for the sake of advancing the peace process and extricating it from the vicious circle. I think the experience of the past months clearly showed that it was the Palestinian side which was serious in its quest for peace, termination of all acts of violence, withdrawal, and coexistence for all peoples in the region.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, the peace cosponsors—Russia and the United States—are mediating an end to the causes which stopped the peace talks. Yesterday, a Russian envoy met with Yasir 'Arafat and will meet today with the decisionmakers in Israel. What conditions has the PLO conveyed to the Russian envoy?

[Ghawshah] During yesterday's meeting, the Russian envoy and brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] discussed in detail the peace process and the obstacles facing it, especially the recent developments. The most important point of discussion was the need to provide protection and security for our people, especially after it has been proven that the Israeli Army did not and will not carry out its duty in preventing attacks on our people. The two sides discussed the obstacles facing the peace process and Israel's failure to carry out its commitments as stated in the Declaration of Principles. These included its delay of withdrawal from the Jericho and Gaza areas, earlier scheduled for 13 December. The entire peace process was discussed. A basic Palestinian

demand was submitted; namely, the need to provide protection and security for the Palestinian people and international observers to guarantee this security.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir, when do you expect the Israeli-Palestinian talks to resume and what about the Palestinian delegation which will leave for Washington?

[Ghawshah] The matter depends primarily on the measures and policies to be adopted by Mr. Rabin and his government. This is the issue. The first fact which should be considered is the degree of seriousness in taking measures and responding to the Palestinian people's just demands. This is the first basic factor. The second is the extent to which the cosponsors of the political process will play their role and give a new push to the peace process.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Thank you very much.

[Ghawshah] Thank you.

Sha'th To 'Explore Aim' of U.S. Invitation

NC0103122894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 1 Mar (MENA)—The PLO has decided not to send a Palestinian delegation to Washington to participate in negotiations with Israel tomorrow, Wednesday, according to a U.S. proposal to shift the venue to Washington for accelerated talks between the two sides to discuss implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah said the committee decided at its meeting last night to continue its suspension of the talks with the Israeli side and not to resume them before securing adequate protection for the Palestinian people.

A high-level Palestinian source said that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks and 'Arafat's political adviser, will leave for Washington within hours on an assignment from the PLO leadership to explore the aim of the U.S. invitation to move the talks to Washington. The source added that Sha'th will explain to the U.S. Administration the Palestinian side's concern over the failure to meet a request to provide protection for the Palestinian people under occupation. The official described the U.S. stance as bad and said it was worse than the Israeli position.

Ghawshah said that the PLO Executive Committee has rejected the Israeli proposals and offers because they do not meet its basic demand of providing protection for the Palestinians. He added that the PLO also rejected the Israeli proposals to resume the negotiations because there are new realities and the circumstances created by the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron need radical remedies.

Ghawshah declared: We are waiting for Israeli measures that will deal with the essential problem which is the settlements.

He noted that the PLO has not yet made a decision whether to accept or decline U.S. President Clinton's proposal to move the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to Washington and that this issue is under intensive discussion among the Palestinian leaders to explore the aim behind the proposal, whether it will give impetus to the peace talks, and the possible role that the United States can play in these talks.

Ghawshah added that the PLO decided to conduct a series of consultations and communications with the Arabs and other concerned parties.

Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi and Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Mahir Ghunaym are due to visit Damascus today for discussions with Syrian officials about the peace negotiations.

An envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin is also due to arrive in Tunis later today to discuss the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

'Arafat earlier sent a message to Indonesian President and the president of the Nonaligned Movement Suharto asking for an urgent and immediate meeting of the movement's Palestine Bureau or Presidency Bureau to discuss the implications of the Israeli massacre, possible international protection for the Palestinians, disarming the Zionist settlers.

'Arafat also sent a message to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, current chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], asking for an urgent meeting of the ICO chairmanship bureau to discuss the implications of the Israeli massacre of the Palestinian citizens, the need to provide international protection for the Palestinians, and disarming the settlers.

The PLO Executive Committee will continue its discussions of the position that it will adopt on the peace negotiations and the U.S. proposal to move them to Washington. It has been learned that the Palestinian leaders will not make any decision until the Security Council issues a resolution about the Hebron incident.

It has also been learned that during last night's meeting sharp arguments took place and diverse attitudes surfaced. A considerable number of the Executive Committee members demanded that the negotiations continue to be suspended, and perhaps boycotted. This group rejects the U.S. proposal to move the talks to Washington unless the Palestinian demands are met.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat and several other members urged patience before making a final response to the U.S. proposal, suspending the negotiations for a certain period, perhaps for a week, but not boycotting them so that it might be possible to resume them after the Palestinian anger cools down. The Palestinian public is

demanding a boycott of the negotiations and even abolishing the agreement reached with Israel.

'Arafat, who wishes to resume the talks on condition that several Palestinian demands are met, is in a difficult position after Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon declared they were boycotting the Washington talks to protest the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. They said they will not resume the talks until after the Palestinians do so.

Sha'th: U.S. Organizations Funding 'Extremists'

NC0103215594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser and head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, returned to Cairo this evening after a three-day visit to Tunis, during which he participated in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership and the PLO Executive Committee.

Dr. Sha'th stated upon arrival that he is carrying a letter from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to President Husni Mubarak dealing with the current situation and contacts during the next stage. These fall within the framework of Palestinian contacts and action during the period when the negotiations are suspended.

Sha'th clarified that Palestinian activity will consist of his going to London; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, to Paris; and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, to Damascus.

He added that another Palestinian envoy will travel to Washington to hold talks with U.S. officials.

The Palestinian official said that after the horrible massacre, which is rife with collusion and menace, we need to take a stand to guarantee security for the Palestinian people under occupation. There cannot be peace without security and the situation cannot continue as it is with the presence of the armed settlers under the protection of the Israeli army shooting everywhere and killing innocent people.

Sha'th noted in his statement that the Palestinian stand will provide an opportunity for taking swift action through the Security Council and through negotiations with the Americans.

He praised the important roles Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative to the United Nations, and Ahmad Mahir, Egypt's ambassador in Washington, are playing to bolster the Palestinian stand. He pointed out that 'Arafat is holding constant meetings with a number of Arab and foreign officials. He will meet this evening with a Russian envoy, and then a Greek envoy because Greece is the current chairman of the European Community.

Sha'th noted that 'Arafat has contacted President Mubarak more than once. He also contacted Indonesian President Suharto, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, Saudi Arabian King Fahd, and Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II, and discussed with them the situation and action to guarantee the security of the Palestinian people so that the peace process can continue on a sound and correct basis.

Sha'th said that suspending the negotiations represents a hiatus because, at this time, we cannot continue these talks. We need to prepare a sounder basis for continuing them.

On the guarantees the Palestinians are demanding, Sha'th said that two of the most important guarantees are to provide international protection on the one hand, and disarm the criminal settlers on the other, because disarming the settlers achieves some security for the Palestinians. The presence of international protection adds life to this security. After these two conditions are met, there are many things that need to be reviewed, such as the settlement process. We need to put pressure on the international conscience so that it will see that settlement is one of the obstacles before peace.

Sha'th said that there is another important issue that the Palestinian envoy to Washington will discuss during his meetings with officials there. This is that the criminal who committed the Hebron massacre, and most extremists and criminals in Israel, are of U.S. origin. There is a clear relationship between them and some legitimate U.S. organizations that gather aid and contributions from the United States to fund and support these extremists in Israel.

Sha'th pointed out that when Likud Party leader Netanyahu was in the United States, he was with these criminals from the Kach gang, as was Kahane, who collected contributions from them.

Therefore, the United States has to bear its responsibility in this regard where financing terrorism publicly is a major responsibility.

As regards the steps Israel has taken, such as releasing some Palestinian detainees and disarming some settlers, Sha'th said: This was nothing new. Shahaq told me before the massacre was committed that some detainees would be released during the current week. However, they tried to exploit this point once again.

I reiterate that the new aspect in the Israeli reaction has been their admission that religious and racist extremism and terrorism are characteristics that apply to the Israeli settlers as well, after they had been using them to describe the Palestinians. Despite this confession, the deterrents and punishments are devoid of any content and represent only something shamefully negligible.

Sha'th on Tunis Talks, U.S., Observers

JN0103121594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, currently in Tunis, good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sha'th, what is your initial reaction to the government's decision to release approximately 1,000 detainees and prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] Naturally, one wants freedom for all his fellow citizens and people. We have worked determinedly at the table of negotiations to secure the release of all Palestinian detainees and not to keep any of our children in prisons and detention camps. This is a duty that we must pursue. When any citizen is released, this means that freedom has been restored to a human being who has suffered gravely. However, as you know, this move is one of the results of this horrendous massacre which claimed many lives in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. I believe that besides releasing those detainees, many things must be done in order to safeguard our people and prevent the recurrence of such dreadful massacres.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, you are taking part in the PLO leadership's consultations. Are there final decisions?

[Sha'th] The meetings are continuing tonight. They have been going on for two days. This is because the incident was so grave and the responsibility is so heavy. We should continue work to provide protection for our Palestinian people. Therefore, the final results of these meetings will not appear before the end of tonight.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what is the PLO leadership's trend regarding the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

[Sha'th] This is one of the important questions which we must decide tonight. Russian President Yeltsin has sent a high-level envoy. He asked us to await his arrival before arriving at our final decision. We will respect this wish. We are waiting to meet with this envoy before we arrive at results, especially with regard to the negotiations. Naturally, we do not want to halt the peace process, which will eventually bring about Israeli withdrawal and freedom for our people. However, we are fully aware that important, sufficient, and necessary guarantees must be provided for the peace process. We are responsible for our people and for their freedom, security, and protection. This makes the decision difficult and guarantees necessary.

[Mu'addi] When will the Palestinian delegation leave for Washington for talks with the U.S. Administration on the resumption of the negotiations?

[Sha'th] Soon. I believe that what is required now is to hold consultations with the U.S. Administration to provide these guarantees. As I have already mentioned, there will also be consultations with the Russian Government. There are other consultations with the Arab, European, and other world governments. What is required, effectively, is to have the international community assume its responsibility and to agree on measures for the protection of the peace process through providing security for our people.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, one last question. Israel has agreed in principle on the presence of international observers in Jericho and Gaza. What is your comment?

[Sha'th] This is an important move. It is referred to in the Declaration of Principles [DOP], which we signed in Washington. The DOP provides for a temporary international presence. Naturally, we want any international presence to be only temporary; that is, until withdrawal is completed, the Palestinian police assume their responsibilities, and until we reach a solution that ensures security and peace for all sons of our people. Therefore, this move is necessary and important. It must provide the minimum level of protection. The other point, which is equally important, is the removal of the causes which led to this odious crime, primarily those settlers who carry weapons and open fire wherever they go. These are two very important conditions for providing protection and for the prevalence of security and stability so that the peace process can maintained.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, currently in Tunis, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you, brother. Thank you.

Sha'th Meets Musa, Says 'Impossible' To Resume Talks

NC0203122894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Afterward, Dr. Sha'th said he gave Minister Musa a message from the Palestinian leadership to President Husni Mubarak. He said the message deals with developments following the abominable and criminal massacre committed by Israeli settlers with the support and backing of Israeli army units in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, developments to come in relation with this issue, and the Palestinian leadership's insistence on providing security for the Palestinian people under occupation until the Israeli withdrawal is effected according

to the peace agreements. Sha'th added that it is impossible now to proceed with the negotiations with the Israelis without clear-cut and effective measures to disarm the settlers, secure international protection, and reconsider the settlement issue. He noted that this is an important issue without which it is difficult to build a real base for progress in the talks, as the Americans demand.

'Arafat, Christopher Discuss Aftermath of Massacre

LD0103225094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The brother President Yasir 'Arafat received at midday today a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The latest developments regarding the Ibrahimi mosque massacre were discussed during the telephone conversation. The brother president stressed the need for the UN Security Council to issue a resolution that guarantees the safety and security of Palestinian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem, and entrusting an international force with this task.

'Arafat, U.S. Envoy Discuss Political Developments

LD0103230194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The brother President Yasir 'Arafat received the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, John McCarthy, yesterday evening.

The recent political developments and the dimensions and effects of the holy Ibrahim mosque massacre—which was committed by the Zionist criminals—on the peace process and on the talks currently in progress were discussed during the meeting.

The UN Security Council's deliberations on reaching a decision on the massacre committed by the Zionist settlers, the need to provide international protection to the Palestinian people, and disarming the Zionist settlers were also reviewed.

'Arafat Receives Envoy, Message From Yeltsin

NC0103221894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 1 Mar (MENA)—The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported tonight that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received a written message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The agency said that 'Arafat received this message when he met this evening with Mr. Igor Ivanov, Russian President Yeltsin's envoy, and that 'Arafat and Ivanov held extended and detailed talks on the current stage of the Middle East peace process after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. They discussed the results of that massacre when all Arab parties to the talks suspended negotiations with Israel.

The news agency said that during his meeting, 'Arafat concentrated on the basic Palestinian demands at this stage, which are:

First, sending an international or multinational force to the occupied Palestinian territories, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, by coordinating and consulting with the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, and the UN secretary general to guarantee the security and safety of the Palestinian people there.

Second, disarming the settlers and preserving public peace.

Third, starting to dismantle the settlements that have extremists in them.

Al-Najjab Boycotts Executive Committee Meetings

TA0103202094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 pp 3, 7

[Text] Amman—Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Palestinian People's Party Political Bureau, has said that he did not travel to Tunis to participate in the Executive Committee's meeting yesterday evening in protest at the position of President 'Arafat, who gave his consent to President Clinton's invitation to transfer the talks to Washington. This, at a time when the Palestinian people, inside and outside, are unanimous on suspending those talks until international protection is provided to them against the massacres to which they are being subjected by the settlers and the Israeli Army and for which the Israeli Government is totally responsible, and until the settlements are dismantled and the settlers are disarmed.

Al-Najjab stressed that 'Arafat's acceptance of this invitation turns the Executive Committee meeting into a mere formality and a cover for a decision which he made alone and for which only he is responsible.

Al-Najjab called on his colleagues in the Executive Committee to listen to the people's voice and adhere to their calls for protection and liberation from the settlers' belligerence.

Al-Najjab pointed out that the U.S. position in the Security Council seeks to foil any serious resolution by the Council to condemn the crime, provide international protection, and implement its resolutions relating to the settlements, which it considers to be illegal and must be removed. Thus, it is clear that the aim of President Clinton's invitation is in harmony with the U.S. position in the Security Council and seeks to deflect the international campaign of condemnation against the Israeli Government. This position must be exposed instead of giving it credibility by quickly agreeing to go to Washington.

The Israeli Government has declared its rejection of the Palestinian demands regarding international protection and disarming of the settlers. This proves that the expressions of condemnation uttered by Israeli officials are just words of consolation, whereas what is required is the adoption of practical measures that prevent the recurrence of such crimes. This increases our doubt about the Israeli Government's intentions to adhere to serious negotiations that really seek to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and end the Israeli occupation.

All this requires the Palestinian leadership to undertake a comprehensive reassessment rather than hastily agree to the resumption of the talks and to shifting them to Washington, while no shift has been made either in Israel's or Washington's position despite the gravity of all that has happened.

Al-Tibi Urges Israel To Dismantle Settlements

BR0103140094 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 1 March 94 p 7

[Interview with Palestinian leader Ahmad al-Tibi by an unidentified L'UNITA reporter in Jerusalem; date not given: "'Israel Must Choose: The Colonists or Peace';" first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Jerusalem—"We renounced immediate discussions over two things of fundamental importance, i.e., the status of Jerusalem and the dismantling of Jewish settlements, in order to reach an initial accord with Israel. But after what has happened in Hebron there can no longer be any postponement. Yitzhaq Rabin must choose: peace or the settlements." This is what Ahmad al-Tibi maintains. He is currently the most authoritative individual among the Palestinians in the territories: He is in charge of relations with PLO headquarters in Tunis. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with al-Tibi on 27 February to discuss the measures adopted by the government to put a stop to the actions of extremist colonists.

[L'UNITA] How do you judge the measures taken by the Israeli Government against the extreme right-wing Jewish movements?

[Al-Tibi] The measures adopted by Rabin can perhaps reduce the pain but they do not extirpate the disease. The disease that can terminate the peace process is represented by the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank.

[L'UNITA] But is the disarmament of the more extremist faction of the colonists not a first step to reopening the issue of the future of the settlements?

[Al-Tibi] I would not be so confident. I think that the measures currently adopted represent the maximum "concession" that Rabin is willing to make, not only to the Palestinians but also to the left wing of his party and the government. Rabin talks of disarming the extremist elements among the colonists but it is precisely on the concept of "extremists" that we disagree with the Israeli prime minister.

[L'UNITA] Do you think that there are extremists in the settlements?

[Al-Tibi] Certainly, and not only the "Kakh" activists. In the meeting held Sunday evening with Peres, I asked a question and am still waiting for a response: How does the Israeli Government judge the head of the Kiryat Arba settlement who refused to condemn the massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs: Is he an extremist or not? There are extremist groups that have not yet committed crimes like the one in Hebron, but their militants play an active role in the Arab manhunt, attack Palestinians in the streets, destroy their cars, and impede any productive activity. My question to Rabin is: Are these not extremists who should be disarmed? As far as we are concerned, the answer is yes. Even these elements, and there are thousands of them, should be disarmed. Before returning to the negotiating table, we want to verify the criteria that the Israeli authorities will use to determine who is extremist and must be disarmed and who instead has the right to go about the Occupied Territories with a machine gun and pistols.

[L'UNITA] The "Meretz" leaders, who also have never approved the colonization of the territories carried out by right-wing governments, maintain that Israel could not support a sudden turnabout on the settlements.

[Al-Tibi] I understand their concern, but they must also realize that the politics of always postponing, and delaying, the issue of dismantling the settlements to "a later date," has only produced hate, violence, and death in the territories. On the other hand, we did not ask that all the settlements disappear as of tomorrow. Our request is simply to place this topic first on the negotiations agenda. In view of what happened in Hebron, quite frankly this does not seem to be an "extremist" request.

[L'UNITA] In concrete terms, what do you Palestinians consider as being the best way to solve the problem of the settlements?

[Al-Tibi] Our principal concern today is that of protecting the population in the territories from the violence of the colonists. We feel that the best solution is to reconcile the schedules for the evacuation of the settlements with the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho. This being for a reason that Israel cannot refuse to acknowledge: If another massacre like the one at Hebron were to take place after the entry into effect of the independence of the two territories, the Palestinian population would accuse the PLO of being jointly responsible for that crime, for having accepted that the settlements remain standing. And this would mean playing the game of the Hamas integralists.

[L'UNITA] 'Arafat in Tunis has once again asked the United Nations to guarantee international protection for the Palestinians in the territories, but Israel has rejected this proposal.

[Al-Tibi] I find this rigidity by the Tel Aviv government entirely unjustifiable, and I am saying this precisely on the basis of what is sanctioned by the additional protocol of Article 3 of the Declaration of Principles set out in Oslo. The appendix reads: "A temporary international presence may be provided for in the area of Gaza and Jericho to guarantee the implementation of the accords." This is what we are asking for today. Nothing more.

[L'UNITA] Among the decisions adopted by the Israeli Government is the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre. What do you expect from this commission?

[Al-Tibi] The verification that the military authorities were responsible for not having guaranteed safety in holy places. It is not sufficient to punish the soldiers who fired at the exit of the mosque. The Israeli Army is called upon to guarantee safety to all inhabitants of the West Bank. But up to now it has interpreted this mandate in a unilateral sense: For the Israeli military commandos, the Palestinians are the potential terrorists and not people to be protected from the violence of the colonists.

[L'UNITA] But the Israeli Government is claiming that disarming all the colonists would be the same as handing them over to "Hamas."

[Al-Tibi] It is the opposite: It is the presence of the colonists, with their charge of violence that is helping Hamas to justify their armed battle. Because those settlements, together with the massive presence of the Israeli Army, are the living symbol of an occupation that is still present, despite Washington. The only way to save peace is by separating the two communities.

[L'UNITA] And now, Dr. al-Tibi, what will happen?

[Al-Tibi] The future of the talks is hanging by a thread: It is up to Israel and the United States not to break it. More than five months have passed since the signing of the accords on Gaza and Jericho, but life in the territories has not improved: People continue to suffer and die. What has been promised must be implemented, and it must be done as soon as possible. Today the restart of talks passes necessarily through Kiryat Arba, Ariel, and the other Jewish settlements in the territories. Peace is incompatible with this presence. Rabin must take note of this. But if the colonists are not disarmed, if Israel once again refuses to discuss the times and the ways for dismantling the settlements, then we will be obliged to tell our people to pick up their weapons, because this would be the only way of protecting ourselves.

PLO Envoy in Germany Views Peace Process

AU0103133194 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0530 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with PLO representative in Germany, 'Abdallah al-Franji, by Karin Beindorff in Bonn on 1 March]

[Text] [Beindorff] Mr. al-Franji, you can certainly tell us what the results of last night's meeting in Tunis were. What are the PLO's preconditions for further negotiations?

[Al-Franji] The demands of the Palestinians after the massacre are clear. They are looking for protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and they demand that not just a few settlers but all the settlers be disarmed. It is obvious that this issue must be discussed between us and the Israelis so that something like the terrible massacre of Friday cannot happen again. In addition, many Palestinians who enthusiastically advocated the peace process a month ago are now doubting whether it is worth negotiating peace while experiencing war every day. Of course, there is disappointment, bitterness, and the massacre has achieved its aim.

[Beindorff] The PLO seems to demand that UN blue helmets are positioned in the occupied territories and not just unarmed UN observers. Do you think that you can push this demand through? Is it absolutely necessary for you?

[Al-Franji] This demand is very legitimate. The Israeli Army cannot safeguard the security of the Palestinians in these territories. Immediately after the massacre when the Palestinians were demonstrating, they fired on the crowd. The number of casualties in the West Bank and Gaza went up afterward. This shows that the Israeli Army cannot be neutral in this conflict. And the Israeli Army does not intend to disarm all the settlers. This means that it takes a burden off the Israelis and their army if international protection troops are stationed between us and the Israeli settlers until we have found a solution to the problem. If they want, we could have U.S. and British UN soldiers so that the Israelis do not fear that a front is being formed against them. It has become very obvious that the Israeli Army is no longer in a position to control the West Bank and Gaza and that it cannot keep the settlers under control either.

[Beindorff] Disarming the settlers is one of the PLO's main demands. Who is to protect the settlers? Or is this meant as a start to the breaking up of the settlements?

[Al-Franji] When we excluded this question the Palestinians hoped that the problem would be solved by the Israelis leaving the country. They live in the West Bank, which is 5,400 square kilometers. In this territory there live 1.3 million Palestinians. And right among them live 150,000 Israeli settlers who occupied the land illegally and built their houses illegally. This decision of the

settlers has not been accepted by international organizations. You must imagine that in Gaza nearly 1 million people live in 365 square kilometers. And there are 5,400 Israeli settlers, claiming 160 square kilometers. This is unbelievable. It is just not normal; and this is a situation that will lead to confrontations if we cannot find a solution quickly. And because we Palestinians are determined to get the peace process so far that we can achieve peace with the Israelis, we think that the Israeli Government can yield on this question. If the Israeli Government wants a lasting peace then it must make concessions in this matter and they must think about whether they want peace, or the settlements and the settlers.

[Beindorff] If I understand you correctly, peace is only possible if the settlements in the occupied territories disappear.

[Al-Franji] It is clear that in the long run they will disappear, or they will have to give in to the Palestinian authority that is forming there. This means if they accept, just like the Arabs living in Israel, Palestinian passports and Palestinian authority, this would be a new situation where we could discuss the issue with the Israelis. But the majority of settlers say they will not accept Palestinian authority and that they will use force to question this authority. And that is what they have done. This action in Hebron was meant to prove that the settlers can do it; and they can.

[Beindorff] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is accused of making too many concessions to the Israelis. Does 'Arafat still represent the interests of the majority of Palestinians?

[Al-Franji] Yasir 'Arafat does represent the interests of the majority of Palestinians. Of course, the disappointment of many Palestinians is understandable. It is disappointment because Yasir 'Arafat, and the PLO leadership, has promised that the Israelis will withdraw on 13 December. They did not withdraw. They said that the violence in the occupied territories will decline. The violence has increased. The activities of the Israeli Army have become much tougher. And of course, this is what the Palestinians experience. They say: Yasir 'Arafat has signed an agreement; he promised us a better life; he promised us freedom. And they see that we have been living in a state of permanent confrontation since September. And this massacre that concerns so many people brings up emotions and outcries. There are protests, and maybe also nasty words against 'Arafat and the PLO leadership.

[Beindorff] Mr. al-Franji, you are going to Tunis today. Do you expect a debate on the PLO leadership there?

[Al-Franji] Discussions within the PLO have never ended; discussions about the way we lead the PLO. We have never simply accepted a Palestinian leader within our ranks without being critical toward him, and this includes Yasir 'Arafat. But on the other hand, we cannot question these people's credibility whenever a conflict arises. We are in a very difficult process. We cannot prove quickly enough to the Palestinians that we have achieved some progress. We will have to count on two things: First, the Israelis must take us into account and give way on these matters in order to help us. Second, we demand, or we hope, or we ask, that the European Union, those countries that have good relations with Israel, do not pressure Israel but make recommendations so that they give way on certain difficult problems, such as the matter of settlements, and other problems which involve the Palestinians' possibility to get an autonomous state.

[Beindorff] One last question, and I ask you to give me a very short answer. The Security Council has not yet agreed on a resolution. When do you expect an answer?

[Al-Franji] We are waiting for this answer. And what the PLO will do partly depends on the Security Council's decision. We hope that it will react in a responsible way.

[Beindorff] Thank you for the interview.

Fatah Hawks Urge 'Arafat To Halt Peace Talks

JN0203081594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The pursued Fatah hawks strugglers inside and outside the occupied territories have issued a statement saying: The heinous crime and the dastardly massacre perpetrated against our people's sons at the Ibrahimi Mosque, a house of God, in the blessed month of Ramadan is cogent proof of the impossibility of peace or coexistence with the enemies of God and mankind.

The statement added: We, the pursued Fatah hawks inside and outside the occupied territories, demand that the 'Arafat leadership halt its negotiations with the Zionist enemy. Similarly, we demand all fighting Palestinian factions to unify themselves in the crucible of the revolution and armed struggle against enemy troops and the hordes of settlers, who are engaged in murder and terrorism against our Palestinian people, who are fighting the Zionist injustice and repression.

Concluding their statement, the Fatah hawks said: Our people's dignity cannot be safeguarded unless we extricate our national rights by force, just as they have been usurped by force.

Hamas Welcomes Suspension, Denounces 'Arafat Stand

JN0103205994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement declaring the decision of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to suspend the ongoing negotiations in protest against the ugly massacre of innocent worshipers at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque a good step.

Hamas denounced the shaky, hesitant position of Yasir 'Arafat as a submissive position that does not take into

consideration the Palestinian blood that has been spilled or the anger of the Palestinian people everywhere.

The statement further said: We think that 'Arafat's stands serve the interests of the Zionist enemy, which seeks to placate popular rage over the massacre.

The statement added: We consider insistence on pursuing a policy of relinquishment and continuing the negotiations, rather than responding to an overwhelming popular desire to withdraw from the talks, as treason against our people.

An official Hamas spokesman said that it is a priority of the popular forces to maintain a strong popular momentum inside the territories and in the diaspora and to remain determined to achieve their goals.

Hamas Leader on 'Last Warning' to 'Arafat

JN0103162994 Amman AL-B!LAD in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Ra'id Salihah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Salihah] How will Hamas react to the brutal massacre perpetrated in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque?

[Ghawshah] I would like to say that the massacre was directed against the city of Hebron, which is known for its conservatism and Islamic character. [passage omitted]

This strike is going to further Hamas' determination, will, and strength. Everyone knows that Hamas' fighters, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam groups, are well educated in the Islamic doctrine, which excels the Torah's doctrine. Therefore, the battle is now between the followers of the Torah and the followers of the Koran. We believe that victory will be for the followers of the Koran. [passage omitted]

[Salihah] Is there any specific plan to carry out operations in the near future?

[Ghawshah] The way Hamas acts is a difficult one, and it is also difficult to understand its organization. However, there is room for movement. Hamas will certainly deal blows to the Zionist enemy, including the settlers. [passage omitted]

[Salihah] Do you plan to assassinate those responsible for the massacre?

[Ghawshah] You know that the killing of individuals does not lead to the required results. We want to strike at and damage a major center of the Zionist enemy. The mujahidin will choose proper targets, God willing.

[Salihah] Do you not believe that it is time for all factions to launch an armed struggle?

[Ghawshah] The blessed march, which was staged in Amman and in which we took part, proposed that and also called for a final withdrawal, rather than a halt or a suspension of the negotiations, and for the resumption of armed struggle. This is a hard road, but it is the only way to preserve the whole nation's dignity.

[Salihah] How do you view President 'Arafat's decision to continue negotiations despite all that has happened?

[Ghawshah] We urged him through the media and stressed that this is his last chance and that this was our last call. If he does not return to his people and resume armed struggle, he will be viewed by his people as part of the Zionists, and he will pay the price. We also said that if he and his clique continued to pursue their current path, the curses of God, the people, and history will befall him.

He accepted Clinton's invitation before the martyrs' blood was even dry. No nationalist would ever do that. However, it seems that due to a widespread popular protest, he began to retreat bit by bit and to set some conditions.

[Salihah] You said this was your last warning to 'Arafat. Does this mean that you will liquidate him if he does not respond?

[Ghawshah] No. Hamas does not believe in political assassination. The last warning comes from the Palestinian people themselves. The people will distinguish between what is legitimate and what is illegitimate and between what is wrong and what is right. [passage omitted]

Hamas Executes DFLP Aide as 'Israeli Agent'

PM2802145994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Hamas Executed DFLP Leader in Gaza"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah—Relations between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have deteriorated seriously after Hamas announced that its armed squads in Gaza executed Yusuf Abu-Lafi, head of the DFLP military organ in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement issued by "the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads," Hamas accused Abu-Lafi (27 years) of having been "an Israeli agent." It distributed a videotape of his confessions.

The incident marks a further deterioration in the relations between the two parties, which are members of the Damascus-based Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] opposed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Hamas's official spokesman in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal has stated that the DFLP's protest against the execution of the head of its military organ in Gaza was

strange. He told AL-HAYAH that the videotape and the confessions of Yusuf Abu-Lafi "were sufficient explanation." He stressed that Hamas had given the factions allied with it, especially the DFLP, the details pertaining to that issue. He added: "It is the general policy of Hamas to inform the faction to which an uncovered agent belongs of the details, and it will continue to do so." He emphasized that "purging the Palestinian factions of agents is one of the important programs which all factions should cooperate with it to fulfill."

The DFLP, however, has protested the incident and described the dead man as "a revolutionary commander and a patriotic struggler known to the masses of the Khan Yunis camp as one of their righteous sons." That came in a DFLP memorandum submitted to the APF leadership during its meeting in Damascus last Saturday requesting an end to such incidents.

Before Hamas claimed responsibility for killing Abu-Lafi, the DFLP in the Gaza Strip issued several statements describing Abu-Lafi as "an honorable struggler" abducted "while performing a struggle duty." They accused the abductors of being "agents of the occupation authorities" and threatened revenge if he was harmed. [passage omitted]

PFLP Leader Urges Integrated Action Plan

JN0103131794 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 1 Mar 94 p 6

[Interview with George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-BILAD] What are the obvious lessons to be learned from the grisly Hebron massacre?

[Habash] The massacre takes us back to the heart of the Zionist agenda and its objectives. If there is a lesson to be learned from the atrocity, this must be to put the Zionist game plan under the magnifying glass, particularly at this moment when numerous forces, including Zionism, imperialism, and defeatist Arab forces are trying to cover up the true nature of the Zionist agenda. Accordingly, it is imperative for Palestinian and Arab masses to define their pan-Arab agenda and aim at weeding out that cancerous growth.

[AL-BILAD] What will the PFLP's [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] response to the incident be? Are you planning any action?

[Habash] Naturally, all our comrades in the occupied territories must think up tangible reactions. Palestinian and Arab masses outside Palestine must also translate their condemnation of the massacre into action. I do not want to offer the military struggle as an alterative to the intifadah or mass and political struggle. What is called for is an integrated militlary, political, and popular plan of action.

PFLP-GC: 'Military Operations' To Target Settlers

JN0103152494 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has said in an exclusive interview with AL-BILAD that the Zionist enemy's atrocious and terrorist campaigns are nothing new. The massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque committed at dawn last Friday will not be the last, he addded.

He said that this brutal massacre came naturally to the Israeli enemy, that it is part of common practices against our people in Palestine—a people who will not be terrorized by all the practices of occupation or by any Israeli military power. Their determination to liberate their occupied homeland will not be harmed, he added.

He said: The brutal massacre the Zionist enemy committed against worshipers in the mosque reflects the concessions [made by Yasir 'Arafat], which ignore the Palestinian's blood, dignity, and rights. The massacre is the fruit of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which has made the Zionist enemy's path shorter and given legitimacy to its occupation.

He added that what the Ibrahimi Mosque witnessed makes us see that the real killers are those who encouraged the Jews—such as 'Arafat—and extended their hands, which are stained with the bloods of the people and the cause, to shake the hand of the enemy. This enemy found that its interest are served by the concessions offered by the 'Arafat leadership.

Meanwhile, 'Abd-al-Jabir Burghul, member of the PFLP-GC Central Committee told AL-BILAD: We in the PFLP-GC were not at all surprised by the massacres committed by the gangs of settlers in the occupied territories. Before these massacres, several massacres were committed by [Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem] Begin and other Zionist gangs such as the massacres in Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, Nahhalin, and Sabra and Shatila. The history of the Zionist movement is full of massacres against the Palestinian people.

He said: We in the PFLP-GC will never halt our Palestinian armed struggle in the occupied territories. The coming days will witness military operations against this entity in the occupied territories, not outside.

He said these operations will target the settlers and the gangs that supervised the execution of these massacres, in addition to assassinating Israeli officials in the Zionist camps as happened in the operation of Khalid Akar [not further identified].

He expressed the belief that 'Arafat will go ahead in the negotiations process, and said: 'Arafat is a man who became involved in this process and will not retreat, the same thing happened with [Former Egyptian President Anwar] al-Sadat. We hope that what is taking place in the

occupied territories will be a lesson to 'Arafat and his clique, and that they will benefit from this lesson and refrain from wagering on the Zionist enemy.

Hawatimah: 'Fedayeen' Resistance To Continue

JN0103194494 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP by Ra'id Salihah, in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Salihah] How will the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] react, beyond rhetoric, to the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque?

[Hawatimah] As soon as we received word about the massacre, the DFLP urged our people inside the occupied homeland and abroad to observe a general strike for three days. I declared this personally over the radio. Our people's response was excellent. Confrontations are still going on. They covered all of the 1948-occupied territory, from the Galilee to the Negev. This is in addition to the occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and eastern Jerusalem. In the diaspora, demonstrations, marches, and protests have not stopped.

We have also called for a halt to the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track until the settlements are dismantled, in line with Security Council Resolutions 465, 605, 507, and 726. These resolutions were issued during the Carter, Reagan, and Bush presidencies. We also urged that the settlers be disarmed and that international protection be provided for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, as happened in Sarajevo. [passage omitted]

In addition to these political steps, the intifadah will continue to resist occupation and settlement activity. Also, armed fedayeen resistance to the occupation troops and the settlers will continue. [passage omitted]

[Salihah] Do you support fedayeen operations against the settlers? How will you react militarily?

[Hawatimah] We have stated clearly that the crime will not go unpunished. The punishment will definitely be against the settlers who are armed to the teeth in full view of the occupation. The crimes of the settlers are the outcome of the current political climate and Rabin's hawkish policy. Rabin insists on having everything: territory, crossings, and security. He is also pursuing settlement activity. He earmarked $100 million in 1994 to expand the settlements. This is in addition to the ideology preached by the Israeli rabbis, urging settlement and expansion and making the Palestinian territory a disputed land. Therefore, our fedayeen operations will necessarily target the settlers. Every settler is a target of the strugglers of the Red Star Battalions, the DFLP's armed wing. The past stands witness that we are faithful to what we declare. The coming days will see appropriate reactions to this horrendous massacre. [passage omitted]

DFLP Urges 'Arafat To Halt Bilateral Negotiations

JN0103204594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said 'Arafat and his team should immediately call a halt to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. They should do this in response to our people's desire and in view of the fact that the majority of the PLO Executive Committee members have boycotted the Tunis meetings. The following members have boycotted the Tunis meetings, either because they have resigned, withdrawn, or frozen their membership: Taysir Khalid, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, Mahmud Isma'il, 'Abdallah Hurani, Shafiq al-Hut, Mahmud Darwish, Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Amr, and Jamal al-Surani.

The DFLP spokesman continued: Only eight members met in Tunis. Three of them urged a halt to the negotiations. Thus, 12 out of 18 members are urging a halt to the negotiations. Only five members support 'Arafat in responding to Clinton's invitation to go to the negotiations in Washington.

ULI Calls on PLO Leaders To Suspend Talks

TA0103171094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 pp 3, 7

[Text] In its appeal no. 97, the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah [ULI] called on the PLO leadership to immediately suspend the current talks and return to new bases that guarantee, first and foremost, the removal of all settlements from the occupied territories, leading to a comprehensive and inseparable Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, above all holy Jerusalem. This should be done on the basis of international legitimacy's resolutions, foremost of all Resolution 242.

The appeal said that talk about peace and negotiations has become a delusion and called for a series of activities, including:

—The immediate launching of a comprehensive and responsible national dialogue with the participation of all national and Islamic forces in a bid to unify our people in confronting the developments of the present stage.

—A new formulation of national unity on militant bases and under the umbrella of Palestinian national constants.

—The hoisting of black flags in the streets and on roofs throughout the occupied territories for a period of 40 days.

—The holding of conferences by national and popular institutions and prodding international organizations and human rights committees to provide temporary international protection for our defenseless people.

—The opening of businesses from the morning hours until 1700. Merchants are urged to adhere to this time.

Popular Organizations Call for Intifadah Escalation

TA0103210194 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Mar 93 pp 3, 7

[Text] Jerusalem—The Palestinian popular federations have issued a statement about the massacre of the worshipers at the Ibrahimi Mosque. The statement places direct responsibility for the massacre on the Israeli Government because it is responsible for the safety of the Palestinian people under occupation. The statement says that the Ibrahimi Mosque compound is more akin to a military barracks in view of the presence of a large number of Israeli forces there who allow groups of settlers to perpetrate their crimes.

The statement continues: While condemning this repugnant crime, the Palestinian popular organizations call on our Palestinian people to consolidate their national unity, escalate their brave intifadah, and respond to the settler herds by all means in retaliation for the innocent souls of the massacre's martyrs. The statement adds: We also call on our people in the diaspora to embark on every initiative in support of the steadfastness of our people under occupation. Furthermore, we call on the Arab nation to bear its pan-Arab and historic responsibility toward our people under occupation and provide all forms of assistance to enhance their steadfastness and their adherence to their land and sanctities. In addition, we call on Arab governments to lift the boycott from our people's leadership, the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate sole representative.

The statement says: In the face of this repugnant crime, the Palestinian popular organizations call on the PLO Executive Committee to halt the talks at once and to insist on the removal of settlements from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, before returning to the negotiating table. What sort of talks and what peace can there be in the shadow of massacres, killings, and destruction?

The popular organizations have noted the international reaction to this disgusting crime and the fact that this reaction has been week and limited only to condemnation and denunciation. No practical measures and steps to provide protection for our people under occupation have been adopted, nor have the Israeli authorities been forced to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The popular organizations call on the United States and its president, Bill Clinton, as a cosponsor of the peace conference and in view of its international responsibility during this stage to cease its unlimited aid to the Israeli Government and to force it to implement the Security Council resolutions relating to the Palestinian people's rights, especially withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Palestinian Arab territories.

Moreover, we call on the UN Security Council to adopt immediate and practical measures and send international forces to protect our Palestinian people from the attacks of aggressors, just as in other parts of the world.

The Palestinian popular organizations appeal to all parties, international organizations, and human rights committees to condemn the perpetrators of this horrible crime and to pressure their governments and their international agencies to press Rabin's government to withdraw its forces and end the occupation.

In view of their faith in a just and comprehensive peace, the Palestinian popular organizations believe that there will be no peace in the shadow of occupation and settlements. They also believe that this peace will not be achieved unless our people attain their inalienable rights—the right of return, self- determination, and establishment of their independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital—under the leadership of the PLO, our legitimate sole representative.

Israeli Government Measures Termed 'Insufficient'

TA0103183394 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "The Crime and the Results"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The cycles of violence which the Palestinian territories are witnessing raise a great deal of doubt about the continuation of the talks or implementation of the accord. While Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has always accused radical Muslims of trying to derail the peace accord by attacking Israelis, in the wake of the Hebron crime it has been proved that the responsibility falls on the shoulders of racist Israeli settlers. Rabin's government must confront those narrow-minded people and put an end to their provocations. Although in yesterday's cabinet session the Israeli Government took some steps to restrict the settlers' movements, those steps are insufficient to reassure us of what will happen tomorrow. The feeling of dejection among our people can only be overcome by measures aimed at restraining the settlers, disarming them, and preventing them from carrying out provocative acts against Palestinians.

Although the Palestinian-Israeli accord represented a political breakthrough between the two peoples, we are not misrepresenting the facts when we say that the deterioration of the situation, the nonimplementation of the accord on its dates, and Israel's attempt to extract more concessions from the Palestinian side were all factors that contributed to a setback and erosion of international fervor for the accord. Undoubtedly, the accord will be in danger of collapse unless Israel takes immediate steps to implement it without waiting for agreements on details. It is impossible to reach a finalized solution and agreement on all the clauses. The dangers surrounding the accord require one to bet on goodwill and begin implementing the accord. They also

require the commitment of the two parties to address the economic concerns in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. [passage omitted]

Hebron Massacre Highlights Need To Remove Settlements

PM2802140394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Hebron Massacre Between Words And Action"]

[Text] The international community now has a golden opportunity to consolidate peace in the Middle East. That is, if it knows how to settle the settlements issue swiftly and without dilution.

Anyone who hears international reports on "terrorism" tends to think that it is a tradition which was born Arab, lived Arab, and is going to die Arab. It is most likely that its definition and classification will remain so for some time.

But Barukh Goldstein and before him the perpetrator of Rishon LeZiyyon...through to Menahem Begin, "hero" of the King David Hotel operation—we do not want to make a long list—confirm that terrorism is not necessarily Arab. It is actually a serious phenomenon which needs to be studied, reexamined, and radically tackled with an open mind that does not condemn haphazardly or use double standards.

We have heard so much about Arab "terrorism" that we are now tired of this tone. We realize that it is actually a planned bias designed to conceal right and the demand for it. If we are today promised responsible international action on an ugly massacre like the Hebron massacre, the first signs in the Security Council have not been encouraging, as positions have—as expected—split between those who are content with verbal condemnation and the advocates of practical measures.

Goldstein's crime is a state rather than an emotional individual reaction. It is a state stemming from a political strategy, a conditioned upbringing, and convictions which are dangerous in their extremist and closed-mindedness and see others' obtaining of humanly acceptable minimum rights as a direct threat to them. In view of this situation, it is impossible to divide a solution or camouflage a settlement.

The world has avoided tackling the problem in the occupied territories and senior politicians have deliberately ignored what is happening, using numerous excuses all of which cannot paper over the cracks or convince a child. And today the present Israeli government claims that it is not responsible for the convulsions of radical settlers like Goldstein, whom the Likud government supported for years. But the ruling Labor Party will not be able to wash its hands of its responsibility—both during its rule before and after Likud—for planting scores of "security" or "religious" settlements whose residents believe the Palestinians have no right to coexist with them.

So any compromise attempt for a settlement that does not include a solution to the crux of the question is doomed to failure. It is futile to talk today about containing reactions without moving quickly to remove the settlements. Their continuation is unacceptable politically because it recognizes the legitimacy of occupation and its implementation and rewards occupation by force. It is also unacceptable at the security level because it does not guarantee any peace for unarmed Palestinians or secure credibility for their promised "local authority." It is also unacceptable demographically because it is simply a population time bomb.

Algeria

Armed Islamic Group Head, 9 Colleagues, Killed 26 Feb

LD2702154194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] It was learned today from the security services that Mourad Sid Ahmed, alias Djaafar El Afghani, the leader of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] and nine members of his group were liquidated yesterday in the Algiers heights. The name of Djaafar El Afghani was linked to the kidnapping of three French citizens on 24 October 1993 outside their home in Krim Belkacem street. They were Mr. and Mrs. Tivano and Mr. Allan. The second case in which Djaafar El Afghani was implicated was the kidnapping of Cheikh Mohamed Bouslimani, the chairman of the Irshad and Islah [Guidance and Reform] charity society from his home in Blida last November.

FIS Assails Killing

LD0103145594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Anouar Haddam, leader of the parliamentary delegation of the former Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, has condemned what he calls the assassination of the leader of the Islamic Armed Group, Djaafar El Afghani, and of nine of his supporters. Anouar Haddam stressed, I quote, that a dialogue with the authorities is pointless if the latter persevere in killing innocents, end of quote. He is also calling on members of the security forces to desert or to join Islamic groups.

An Algiers special tribunal has sentenced nine Islamists to jail sentences of between three and five years for criminal conspiracy. Four other accused have been acquitted.

Denounces President for Killings

LD0203110094 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Athens, March 2, IRNA—Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has denounced the regime of Liamine Zeroual for the recent killings of several Islamists and vowed to continue a jihad till Algeria is converted into an Islamic state.

"At the time when the regime is talking about negotiations...we see an increase of assassinations of innocent citizens in all parts of the country in order to drive fear and terror among the people," said a FIS statement faxed to IRNA from Germany. "The criminal cowardly act which was carried out by the suppressive forces against the leader, mujahid and martyr Sayf al-Islam Djaafar and some of his helpers, the best of mujahideen heroes, expresses the real intention of the regime which is imposed on the people by fire and sword," said the statement issued by the Executive Committee of FIS in Europe.

"Let the regime and its helpers know that whenever a leader falls other will take his place on the same path till god grants us victory," said the statement in Arabic.

The Algerian regime this week said its forces had killed Djaafar El Afghani and several other members of his group.

"There is no solution to the political dilemma in Algeria except by total compliance with the will of the people to create a just Islamic state which will deliver the people from tyranny, oppression and corruption and return to them their freedom and respect," it underlined.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Comments on Hebron, Other Issues

Notes Security Council's 'Credibility'

NC2802152894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that the Security Council's delay so far in issuing a resolution on the massacre in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron affects its credibility and that of the United Nations.

He added that the Security Council's postponement of the issue for reasons related to the stand of this or that state cannot be understood.

Commenting on the council's failure so far to adopt a resolution on the massacre, Musa said: The important thing is that this massacre was a criminal one and it cannot be passed over or forgotten.

Musa went on to say that the issue has changed from merely a human catastrophe to a political situation that represents a regression in the Security Council's status and role. He added that the Egyptian delegation in New York has been instructed to support the issuance of a resolution, not a statement, and to work to have the Security Council discuss this issue in light of the UN secretary general's report, which spoke about the presence of UN observers.

Musa stressed that the status of the Israeli settlements has become very serious and that the settlements and settlers must be put under control because their presence has become extremist and criminal, as was shown in the Hebron Mosque carnage. He said that it is high time that the status of the settlements was reviewed because they not only have political and legal, but also security effects, as they contain a large number of extremists, gunmen, and crazy people.

On the Israeli Cabinet's resolutions yesterday on the settlements and settlers, Musa said that it is important that the resolutions not be cosmetic. If the resolutions are cosmetic, they are rejected because the roots of the problem lie in the existence of the settlements and settlers, their encouragement, and the failure to protect the Palestinians. He stressed the need for a solution that will protect the Palestinians.

Urges Disarming Hebron Settlers

NC0103150894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa emphasized today that the situation in the occupied Arab territories remains dangerous and demanded that matters be brought under control in line with international law and in accordance with Israel's responsibility as an occupying power.

The foreign minister said that consultations are under way at the UN Security Council to issue a resolution about the Hebron massacre. He noted the need to prevent a recurrence of such a hideous incident by disarming the settlers in the Hebron area.

He added: If the settlers are going to have weapons for self-defense, the Palestinians must be given the same right. If the occupying power protects both the settlers and the Palestinians, this will be another matter and in that case the settlers' weapons must be removed.

Musa said such a measure would serve the interests of the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Notes Other Regional, Domestic Issues

NC2702182094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt insists on the peace process being conducted in accordance with the principle of exchanging land for peace. He added that Egypt intervenes in this process only to defend the interests of Palestine and other Arab countries because it sees things from a different perspective than the United States, Europe, and Israel. The foreign minister said that the day will come when Egyptian efforts in this area will be brought to light.

In an interview that will appear in tomorrow's edition of the weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, Musa said that peace means the restoration of land that was lost on 5 June 1967 as well as Palestinian rights.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that any analysis of the talks will show that the Palestinian side is the weakest, for the Palestinians do not have many cards while Israel has the land, the power, and international assistance. Therefore, it is necessary for the Egyptians to throw their diplomatic weight on the Palestinian side to give it the momentum and power to negotiate.

Musa pointed out that Egypt has intervened on the side of the Palestinian delegation on more than 12 occasions. In each of these cases, the Palestinians would reach a certain point and then the Egyptians would step in and introduce alternative ideas, he explained.

Minister Musa said that there are no concessions being made. If we give Israel part of the land, this is a gain because the land was completely lost and there was no Palestinian presence or authority there that could be used to regain it.

The foreign minister said that if we let this opportunity slip by for five more years it will be lost completely. He noted that between 1967 and the late President Anwar al-Sadat's peace initiative in 1977, there were no more than a handful of settlements [built in the occupied territories] and only a few hundred settlers. Today, we are dealing with 180 settlements and upward of 200,000 settlers. If we fail to face this situation, the number of settlements will rise to 300 and the number of settlers to 0.5 million. The Jews will become a majority and we will not be able to get them out, Musa said.

The foreign minister denied that the situation in South Africa is analogous to that in the occupied territories. There is a great difference, he said. In South Africa there is a white minority and a black majority, no land is occupied, and discrimination is on the basis of skin color. The problem in Palestine is one of Israeli occupation coupled with thousands of immigrants pouring in from abroad and the millions that are being spent on them. The standards of international powers allow Israel to win land every day, he stated.

Minister Musa said that, had the Palestinians participated with us in the Camp David accords, we would now be discussing self-determination. Those who call for deferring the issue to future generations overlook the erosion of land, political momentum, and Palestinian presence. The also forget that Palestinians are living in hell and have no jobs or hospitals, Musa pointed out.

The foreign minister rhetorically asked if it is not better for Yasir 'Arafat to return to Jericho; tour the occupied territories; take control of Nablus and other towns; and open universities, schools, and hospitals.

In his interview, Musa noted that Egypt has never abandoned its role in Somalia. He said the first phase of the Somali problem required the sending of food and humanitarian aid. This role was undertaken by the rich states and the international aid organizations, which managed to stop the famine.

Musa noted that the political role of reforming the situation in Somalia is a very complicated matter. It is impossible for one state, no matter how strong, to undertake a drastic action in Somalia alone.

Musa explained that Egypt could not have intervened alone to separate the warring factions in Somalia. He noted that the United States was the only state that was

able to implement the Security Council resolutions. The United States was the only state that could move a whole army and its ancillary equipment to Somalia.

Musa said Egypt is calling for four things in Somalia: the establishment of a government or a transitional administration, the achievement of national reconciliation, the disarmament of the Somalia factions, and the reconstruction of Somalia. He said that Egypt emphasizes that national reconciliation must include all factions without discrimination. Therefore, it has invited all factions, including the faction of General Aidid, because it rejects the principle of electing one person from among the factions and installing him because soon afterward the civil war would resume.

Musa stressed that Egypt can help Eritrea and compete with Israel's role. However, it cannot compel Eritrea not to cooperate with Israel because this is considered intervention in its internal affairs. He indicated that it is in Egypt's interest to help Eritrea, instead of Israel.

Musa called on the Iraqi regime to recognize Kuwait without preconditions so that the Arab crisis with Iraq can end. He noted that the crisis lies in the Iraqi regime's insistence that Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province.

Musa explained that Egypt is against the partition of Iraq. However, it cannot approve of Iraq's stance on Kuwait or call for lifting the blockade on Iraq unless it complies with the UN resolutions. He stressed that Egypt is prepared to do everything to ease the Iraqi people's suffering. However, Egypt does not have the last say on this subject. Musa denied that there are any direct or indirect Egyptian-Iraqi contacts.

On Egypt's stance on Libya, Musa explained that Egypt respects the UN Security Council resolutions but is against escalating them out of concern for the Libyan people's interest. He stressed the need for the trial [of the two suspects in the Lockerbie incident]. If there is disagreement on the venue of the trial, the Libyan demand must be taken into consideration because it is just.

Asked about the fate of Libyan opposition figure Mansur al-Kikhya, Musa said that contacts with Libya are still continuing, but we cannot accuse anyone until we have all the evidence.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the regime in Egypt is "shaky and unstable," the foreign minister affirmed that Egypt has received an official denial of this statement from Israel. Otherwise, there would have been a strong Egyptian reaction to it.

Regarding the terrorism issue, Musa said that it should neither be underestimated nor exaggerated because it is not new and has existed since the forties. He affirmed that the terrorist attacks and murders that are taking place will not affect political, social, economic, and technical progress. The issue is marginal. There are exaggerations in the foreign media in depicting the situation in Egypt.

Musa expressed the view that some neighboring countries support terrorism, but he refused to name these countries.

Asked about Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the foreign minister affirmed that despite the differences between Egypt and Sudan there is an opportunity for dialogue with the brothers because historic relations must not be allowed to collapse. He emphasized that Egypt opposes the secession of southern Sudan. At the same time, it believes that there should be no bloodshed among the same people because the people of the south are part of Sudan.

Musa affirmed that Egypt and Iran are large countries in the same area, and what links them is stronger than what separates them. The opportunity is available for the establishment of good relations between Iran and Egypt.

The foreign minister noted that he has good relations with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He said that Egypt, as a government, does not want a permanent split with Iran but the obstacle is the difference in views.

Musa noted that Egypt has often criticized Iranian policy toward the Gulf states, Iraq, and some African states because it wanted to draw Iran's attention to the fact that Egypt rejects any attempt to undermine Arab national security or infringe on the territories of any Arab state, and the United Arab Emirates in particular.

Musa said that Egypt has the largest market. The economic reform program goes hand-in-hand with the peace process. At a certain point in time we will achieve peace and a favorable Egyptian economic situation. If other favorable economic conditions are added, there will be no fear that Israel will control the situation. It is difficult to imagine that a small country like Israel can threaten us economically.

He added that the Israeli economy distinguishes itself in technological services and not in heavy industries, mass agriculture, or mass consumer production. He said that investors will go to the state that offers better conditions. For this reason, we must be able to provide favorable conditions for investment and economic progress, and this demands reaching an Arab understanding on this issue.

The foreign minister explained that the Middle Eastern market is a slogan. We are talking about a new situation in the Middle East with new economic, security, and political elements.

Musa affirmed that a Middle Eastern market cannot be realized before peace. Otherwise, where will Syria and Palestine stand? The Middle Eastern market means sitting together and defining the role of each party. This has not taken place and has not been raised until now.

Calls Downing of Serb Planes 'Good'

NC0103151094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1441 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the shooting down of four Serb aircraft by NATO jet fighters is proof of NATO's seriousness in carrying out its ultimatum addressed to Serbia within the framework of UN resolutions. In a statement today, he said that this action was supposed to have been done earlier, but is still good nonetheless. He said that according to the reports we have received, the resolution on moving heavy weapons 20 km from Sarajevo has been violated. He stressed the need to strike at the forces that violate this resolution.

Demonstrations Condemning Mosque Massacre Continue

NC0103222194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Demonstrations condemning the massacre that Israeli settlers committed in the Ibrahimi Mosque Square in Hebron continued in Egypt for the fifth day in a row. The popular and trade union organizations also continued to condemn this massacre. The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party staged a peaceful demonstration at noon today and issued a statement condemning the barbaric massacre and savage acts by gangs of Jewish settlers against the Palestinian people. The Party addressed a statement to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, calling for an emergency Arab summit to take a firm stand and confront the Zionist (?aggression) against the Palestinian Arab people in Palestine.

The statement stressed the need for all Arab countries to adhere to the resolutions of the Arab boycott of Israel. It called on the Arab League to pass a resolution demanding that the current peace talks, which have become a cover for criminal actions, be stopped. It called on the Arab League to declare practical and binding measures to bolster the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied territories and to support their valiant intifadah for the liberation of all Palestinian territories.

The statement emphasized the need for the Arab League to exert efforts to restore Arab solidarity, unify the nation's efforts, and lift the blockade on Iraq and Libya. It called for putting all forms of pressure on the Security Council to pass a resolution providing for international protection of the Palestinian people, explicit condemnation of the massacre, dismantling the settlements, and disarming the settlers.

In Alexandria, the lawyers syndicate freedoms committee condemned the heinous crime and massacre committed in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. In a statement it released, the committee said that the Jewish settlers committing this crime and the killing and injuring of dozens of Muslims praying during the holy month of Ramadan demonstrate that Arab blood has become [words indistinct] for experts in genocide who have committed the massacres of Dayr Yasin, Sabra, and Shatila.

The social arts and science committee in Alexandria condemned the massacre, saying that it was carried out under the slogan of arms. It said that Israel let its settlers behave crazily, foolishly, and conceitedly. Israel, the statement said, refuses to disarm the settlers, which makes us unsure about the security of the Palestinian people and discredits Israeli claims. It stressed that this incident robs the peace process of its credibility. In the meantime, the Alexandria University campus was the scene of student demonstrations. The students shouted slogans hostile to Israel and condemned the horrific massacre committed against the Palestinian people. The lawyers, doctors, and engineers trade unions staged a huge march in Alexandria yesterday evening to condemn the massacre.

The al-Mansurah University board issued a statement condemning the bestial crime committed in the Ibrahimi Mosque, saying it shows savagery, barbarism, and violation of the sanctity of a divine religion. It called on the international community to take action quickly to ensure security and peace in this vital part of the world. It appealed to world public opinion to put an end to double standards in the application of international law.

'Source' Denies Student Demonstrators Fired Upon

NC0103161594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—A responsible security source has denied that any security man has fired a single bullet at the students who staged demonstrations in universities in protest over the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. In a statement today, he said that the security men's task was to prevent the students from leaving the university campus to preserve security and stability. He stressed that reports that certain security men fired bullets at students are totally baseless and false. He asserted that the task of the security men is primarily to keep law and order and maintain stability, noting that students have the right to express their feelings by staging a peaceful demonstration inside the campus without causing riots and instability.

Papers Call for Disarmament of Settlers

NC2802081394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—Today's newspapers say the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque uncovers the ugly face of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza and proves that frenzied Israeli talk of security issues is just an illogical excuse that aims to guarantee the Jews' safety and undermine that of the Arabs.

AL-AHRAM warns that the coming stage might witness further tension in the territories and that extremist elements on both sides will get involved. Israel must show more flexibility in handling the circumstances if it wants peace and if the region is meant to see that peace in the foreseeable future, it says.

The paper calls on the Israeli Government to confront the Israeli terrorism with the same enthusiasm and firmness with which it confronts what it terms terrorist operations by Palestinians. The paper adds that the Israeli settlers' terrorism has exceeded all bounds.

AL-AKHBAR says the Israeli Government will be unable to wash its hands of the blood staining them. The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre will remain a sign of disgrace that time will not erase, no matter how hard Israel tries to absolve itself of the responsibility, the paper says.

It adds that the Israeli Government's insistence on refusing to disarm Jewish settlers—despite all the crimes and those that will take place—reflects how Israeli officials belittle the lives of the Palestinian people, the legitimate owners of the land.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the UN Security Council is asked to send an international team to investigate this massacre, uncover its real motives and circumstances, and determine the extent of Israeli army involvement. The Council must also send international troops to protect the inhabitants of the occupied Palestinian territories to avoid a recurrence of such a heinous crime, the paper stresses. [passage omitted]

Commentary Stresses Palestinian Protection

NC0103201194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "Egypt Is Doing Its Utmost To Provide Protection for the Palestinians"]

[Text] It is noteworthy that, in the wake of the assault on the Ibrahimi Mosque, Israel has insisted on the need to continue the peace negotiations with the Arab parties, the Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanians, while at the same time attempting to downplay the event as an individual act.

The issue now is not whether to continue negotiating but primarily how to protect the Palestinians, adopt measures to prevent a recurrence of the crime, and stop the settlers and extremists from threatening and terrorizing the Palestinians. The Israeli Government has primary responsibility for this. Likewise the United Nations must begin effective action for the same purpose and must issue clear and firm resolutions, including the confiscation of weapons, to prevent a recurrence of irresponsible and illegal violent acts by the Israeli settlers and provide protection for the Palestinian civilians.

The Israeli cabinet adopted some measures two days ago taking weapons away from some settlers and limiting their movements. The Palestinians found these decisions unsatisfactory because they tackle matters superficially and do not touch the basic issue, which is their protection.

Egypt has consistently stressed this point and President Mubarak has always voiced grave concern about the threats to which the Palestinians are subjected. Egypt made the same demand in its statement to the UN Security Council, urging it to adopt a clear resolution that will guarantee Palestinian safety in the occupied territories. Egypt also emphasized that the security requirements, which Israel never stops advocating, are not limited to the Israelis. It announced that similar attention must be paid to the Palestinian people's security requirements, especially in the coming stage when Israel will need to make confidence-building moves and prove its sincere peace intentions.

Since the bloody incident occurred, Egypt has conducted contacts with all parties to protect the Palestinians and prevent a recurrence of the incident which U.S. Secretary of State Christopher described as the occupation's bloodiest day. President Mubarak telephoned U.S. President Clinton, Palestinian leader 'Arafat, and Yitzhaq Rabin. The Egyptian diplomatic establishment undertook other positive actions in many directions, particularly in the Security Council, to ensure that a positive and effective resolution is adopted.

In this connection, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has asserted that the Security Council will lose its credibility unless it adopts a resolution condemning the incident and providing international protection for the Palestinians.

News agencies have reported Israel's agreement, for the first time ever, to allow international observers in Gaza and Jericho and to disarm the Jewish settlers' weapons in Gaza and the areas surrounding Jericho, something described by some news agencies as an important concession. We say that, first of all, this is an auspicious step that came as a result of Egyptian and U.S. efforts. We note, however, that it does not represent an Israeli concession but is a necessary step to create a modicum of Arab trust and demonstrate a goodwill gesture and a constructive movement toward peace.

The Arabs, all the Arabs, are seeking peace and are doing much for this purpose. The other side, the Israelis, must act in the same spirit until both sides meet on the road leading to this objective.

The criminal assault on the Ibrahimi Mosque, causing so many casualties, has dealt a strong blow to the peace efforts. Objective Israeli measures that guarantee Palestinian rights can, however, end the crisis. This of course will need arduous efforts and time.

Yemen

Salih Addresses Military, Security Officials

JN0103214594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, conferred this afternoon with the brother commanders of the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, the Interior Ministry, the security forces, the directors of departments and units, and military [word indistinct].

The brother chairman of Presidential Council spoke to them and reviewed developments in the national arena following the signing of the document of accord in the Jordanian capital under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn and the hospitality of the fraternal Jordanian people. This meeting was attended by all Yemeni political and popular forces.

The brother president told the audience: I am glad to meet with you before the end of this holy month to acquaint you with the results of this meeting, which received great Arab and international attention. Everyone thought that immediately after the signing of this document in Amman the crisis would be over and the state establishments would reunite in order to resume work and begin implementing the provisions of the accord document. You heard what happened later. Now we are making efforts to reunite the leadership and the state establishments, and to end all remaining skepticism, which certain elements have tried to sow. These elements always survive by plotting and fabricating strife at the expense of the people and the homeland. The brother president added: It is regrettable that these forces and elements have been practicing such activities since the outbreak of the Yemeni revolution and until now. These forces and elements are only concerned with their own interests, even if these interests conflict with the revolution's objectives and the aspirations of the Yemeni masses. He referred to the traces of fragmentation left from the Imam's regime and colonialism.

He said: On the eve of establishing the Republic of Yemen and the unity of the homeland, we were aware that we would face difficulties caused by these traces left by the old regime. We hoped that through wisdom and cooperation we would be able to overcome these difficulties, benefiting from [words indistinct] the lessons of history. But to those who do not want to see a united people and a prosperous homeland tried, from the first minute of unity, to resume their destructive activities. They poisoned relations of understanding, created a skeptical atmosphere, and incited division among the sons of the same homeland. They fomented conflicts and sectarian and tribal problems, and incited all backward practices, which the unity came to bury to overcome all tragedies from which our people suffered for so long.

The brother president said: We, and all the masses of the Yemeni people, led by the national military establishment, which offered the dearest sacrifices in defense of the revolution and for the sake of realizing unity, will work to protect the gains that we realized throughout the revolution's march, and we will not retreat whatever the price might be. We are prepared to sacrifice for the sake of preserving the revolution's march and to protect the unity of the homeland. We will not hesitate to offer concessions and to relinquish power, if need be, in order to preserve the revolution's march and the homeland's unity. We presented this idea during the Amman meeting, and we said: Instead of differing over posts, it is possible to sacrifice some leaders and relinquish power for the sake of the unity of 14 million Yemenis.

The brother president expressed deep sorrow for what happened recently in Mudiyah and some areas in Abyan as a result of certain movements made by some adventurous military commanders, against the orders and instructions of the political leadership and the hierarchy of the military command. These commanders will shoulder full responsibility for the mistakes they made and for the bloodshed and killing of innocents that they have caused.

He expressed his sorrow and condolences to the families of martyrs who fell during these regrettable incidents. He emphasized that the state will take care of the martyrs' families and will bring to account everyone responsible for these incidents.

He said every drop of blood shed in these incidents is a loss for the people and the homeland. The brother president considered all those killed in these incidents martyrs for the sake of unity, stressing that the state is committed to dealing with all issues that result from these incidents.

The brother president referred to the tasks of the military committee assigned with ending the military deterioration. He instructed the commands of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff to facilitate all tasks of the committee and overcome all difficulties for it in order to allow it to carry out its duties in following up implementation of the military aspect of the document of accord and ensure the withdrawal of the military forces to their garrisons as they had been before the beginning of the crisis on 19 August 1993.

The brother president expressed his hope that every effort would be exerted to restore confidence and dispel doubts within the command. He said that confidence could not be achieved through a decision or decree by the Republic, but through national practice and behavior, apart from exaggeration or oneupmanship. He asserted that past practices, behaviors, statements, and media polemics do not honor any nationalist cause or maintain the homeland's interests. He said that he issued instructions to the official media to prevent the broadcast of any statements that may further the current deterioration.

The brother president pointed out in his speech that it is the sons of the military and security establishments that paid the price for the 1972 and 1979 conflicts. He said they were the victims of the conflict, and that after each conflict before the unity, disputing parties sat at the dialogue table after our people paid a high price for those conflicts. So, why do parties not sit at the dialogue table to discuss all issues in a brotherly spirit before shedding drops of pure Yemeni blood and instead of repeating the tragedies, which our people cannot stand and which we do not need? He pointed out that the unity is a source of pride and strength for every Yemeni and its is also a new birth for Yemen. This unity, he said, has produced a new mechanism, which we should use, benefiting at the same time, from others' positive experiences in the areas of security, economy, administration, and construction.

The brother president also pointed out that the signing of the document of authorization for the military committee by the brother president and his deputy has won the satisfaction of the fighters and the masses of the people and that instructions have been issued to provide every facility for the joint military committee to achieve success in its mission. The Presidential Council chairman also stressed that no party has the right to control any Yemeni region or exercise trusteeship over the people in any part of Yemen. [Word indistinct] of the constitutional and legitimate institutions that are freely elected by the people to represent them here and abroad.

The brother president said: We have great confidence that you, O brother fighters and comrades-in-arms, will shoulder your responsibility and confront those who create conflicts in society. The conflicts should end, and we will do all we can to prevent sedition in our society. We will root out those who spread sedition in order to entrench security and stability and to maintain our national unity. Within the next few weeks, we will, God willing, return to our bases safely under the banner of unity and democracy; we will turn over a new leaf in the interest of the homeland; we will heal the wounds; and we will exert efforts to promote confidence through dialogue, meetings, and sincerity. The military committee will withdraw [words indistinct] to their previous regions in order to translate the contents of the accord document and to withdraw units from the dividing lines to other areas. There are good signs, he said, that the committee will succeed in its mission, and we in the command will direct and urge all the military commands to cooperate with the military committee and facilitate its mission. Any individual or group that rejects orders will be fully responsible. We hope that this blessed meeting will be a step toward a comprehensive solution to the crisis. I wish you every success. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, Chief of Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Tihami, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Affair Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, and several officials from the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

Joint Military Delegation Visits Forces

JN0103213194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The joint military committee, composed of a Yemeni military team, a Jordanian military team, an Omani military team, and the U.S. and French military attaches, today, Tuesday, paid a field visit to the Qa'tabah al-Dali' and held a joint meeting with the commanders of the 2nd Armored Brigade and the 'Abbud Brigade. The commanders of the two brigades were briefed on the decisions made by the committee in light of the tasks with which it is charged by the political leadership to ensure that the forces have returned to their post-crisis positions and that the checkpoints and recently erected roadblocks have been removed.

The committee reiterated the need to expeditiously implement the instructions to return to garrisons. It called on the two sides to abide by these instructions strictly and expeditiously in order to (?avoid) any military friction.

The committee then headed for the southern axis command in [name indistinct] where it met with the commander of the axis and the commander of the [word indistinct]. It was acquainted with the military situation in the (?airport vicinity) and the ongoing arrangements to carry out the orders to make sure that units have returned to their camps.

An official spokesman for the committee said that progress has been achieved in disengaging forces in Mudiyah, calming the situation, and returning forces from both sides to their positions. This good work, the spokesman added, which was achieved by the field visit [word indistinct] under the supervision of the joint military committee, calls for optimism given the high tension in this area and the sensitive situation there. [Words indistinct] the situation in Abyan makes the committee more optimistic in overcoming the other problems in other areas.

The official spokesman added that the joint committee has set up another subcommittee to remain in the Qa'tabah al-Dali' area and to work on the [name indistinct] axis as far as Bab-el-Mandab to supervise the withdrawal of the forces in these areas to their previous positions. He expressed hope that the military commanders from both sides will cooperate to carry out the orders and to prevent any further clashes (?in any other position).

Fighting Forces 'Disengaged'

JN0203070794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Jordanian-Omani mediation committee in charge of ending fighting between the Yemeni Army units said yesterday evening that the committee has disengaged the warring forces in the southern Governorate of Abyan and reached a cease-fire.

He added that the committee managed to bring the situation in the city of Mudiyah in the Abyan Governorate under control and to disengage the two warring parties. He indicated that agreement was reached with the leaders of the two sides to return the military forces to their pre-crisis positions following the signing of the document of pledge and accord in Amman on 20 February.

The military committee, composed of Yemeni, Jordanian, and Omani officers, was formed last Sunday. It enjoys the support of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. It was tasked to return forces to their previous positions away from the past border areas, end clashes, and merge the northern and southern armies.

Foreign Minister Notes Mediation Efforts

JN0103183294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has said there is great optimism over the Jordanian-Omani mediation efforts.

In press statements published today, he said what has been published abroad about the Yemeni crisis contains a great deal of exaggeration and overstatement.

He stressed that the Yemeni people and leadership are committed to the implementation of the accord document, which was signed in Amman by all Yemeni political forces under the auspices of His Majesty King Husayn on 10 Ramadan.

Paper Updates Developments in Abyan Fighting

PM0203095394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: " 'Ali Nasir Brigade Besieged, Its Camp Near Sanaa Shelled"]

[Text] London, Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Schools in the Yemeni governorate of Abyan were closed yesterday and students returned to their homes after fighting erupted between forces of the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade stationed in Zanjibar and forces of the southern al-Wahdah Brigade. Various types of weapons were used.

Sources in Abyan Governorate emphasized that the clashes moved yesterday to Ja'ar, the second largest city on Abyan. The scale of the losses resulting from these clashes is not known.

Forces from the 1st Tank Division led by Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, half brother of Yemeni 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, supported by a tribal force from the Hashid tribes, specifically from the al-'Usaymat tribe, and units from the 2nd " 'Urubah" Brigade, which is stationed in Sa'dah Governorate, launched an attack with various types of weapons late last night on the 5th Infantry Brigade, which is loyal to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and whose elements fled to the north following the 13 January 1986 incidents but confirmed their loyalty to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] recently, namely after the rebellion they staged against the president's brother, who could not appoint a replacement for Col. 'Abdallah Shalil, who is from Abyan, because of the refusal of the force's commanders.

Military sources in Aden told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the fighting in which forces of the 5th Brigade are engaged with the forces led by Col. 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar in the Jabal al-Aswad (Harf Sufyan) in 'Imran have resulted in 12 killed and 30 wounded from the 5th Brigade, and that the forces belonging to President Salih's brother used all types of medium and heavy weapons in the fighting.

The sources added that units of the 1st Tank Division and forces of the 2nd " 'Urubah" Brigade are still besieging forces of the 5th Brigade, cutting off supplies, including food and water supplies, and preventing it from moving the wounded and the dead from the camp.

An official spokesman for the Defense Ministry in Aden held military leaders, whom he described as "extremists" and who control the centers of decisionmaking in the General People's Congress [GPC], fully responsible for these actions.

However, an authoritative GPC source described the ongoing fighting in Modiyah as terrorist actions carried out by YSP militias. The source said that "two military aircraft flew at low altitude over Zanjibar the day before yesterday evening near the command of the al-'Amaliqah Brigade camp, breaking the sound barrier in a provocative manner to terrify citizens in the city."

Information from Abyan says that Lieutenant Colonel Husayn 'Ali Haytham, former security commander in Abyan Governorate and a GPC member, is seeking to storm the security command center in Zanjibar to regain his position by force, as he was dismissed from his post by the YSP, which appointed 'Ali Ahmad al-Ghawshah as his successor. The information confirms that Husayn 'Ali Haytham is seeking protection inside the al-'Amaliqah Brigade camp in Abyan.

At the same level, ambassadors of the EC states in Sanaa have confirmed that a number of victims have fallen over the past few days as a result of the violent clashes which have taken place in Yemen.

Al-Bid, Political Dialogue Committee Meet

EA0103210394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received yesterday in Aden brother members of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. During the meeting, the situation and developments in the national arena were discussed in the light of the grave

military and information deterioration. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice chairman of the Presidential Council, evaluated the role of the Dialogue Committee and the efforts which it is doing for stopping the great deterioration in the current situation. He emphasized the importance of finding ways that will secure the implementation of the accord document which was signed in the Jordanian capital, Amman, as it is the document of the national consensus which aims in correcting the track of the unity and promoting its democratic [word indistinct] and building its modern state, stressing the necessity of rebuffing the old attempt aiming to turning around from the accord document and emptying it out of its contents by creating a climate of tension and [word indistinct], which do not help except in finding the circumstances and atmospheres appropriate for the rise of the sounds of guns instead of the voice of dialogue and resorting to common sense.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid drew attention to the dangers of dragging the country into the tunnel of tension and infighting. He urged the national Dialogue Committee on the necessity of investigations in the breaches which were made after the signing of the accord document and in the crimes done against the soldiers and the innocent sons of our people who fell drenched in blood in the incidents witnessed by Abyan Governorate the next day after the signing of the accord document and the bloody incidents which the (?36th) Infantry Brigade the [word indistinct] was exposed to on 26 and 27 February 1994. He urged the Dialogue Committee of the necessity of taking a stand towards these irresponsible acts which not only destabilize the security and stability of the country, but also threaten the social peace and work on pulling the country into the furnace of the destruction of war, and also threaten the security and stability in the region and damage the national and international (?interests in it).

Brother the vice chairman of the Presidential Council gave a directive with the necessity of putting the official mass media under the guidance of the Information Committee, emanating from the National Guidance Committee with effect from Tuesday, 1 March 1994. He also urged the Military Committee emanating from the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to make field visits to the regions of tension and infighting and particularly to the regions of Mudiyah, Mukayras, and al-Bayda for removing the atmospheres of tension and stopping the deterioration in the military and security aspects and preventing any new military manifestations or movements with coordination with the joint Military Committee, and coordinating their efforts with the aim of [word indistinct] war and restoring peace, security, and stability to the entire homeland.

Political Forces Committee Holds Meeting in Abyan 1 Mar

JN0103175494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee held a meeting in Abyan Governorate this afternoon. At the beginning of the meeting, the conferees expressed their satisfaction with the meeting that was held in this governorate which has witnessed regrettable incidents. The conferees reviewed the agenda and discussed and approved the working paper on the media. They also stressed the need to stop all forms of deterioration, to implement the accord document swiftly, and to abide by instructions issued by the Presidential Council chairman and vice chairman regarding the duties of the military committees.

The committee also listened to the leaders of party and political organizations on the latest developments in the governorate, as well as effective steps to restore normalcy. The committee will continue its work in Aden later this evening.

Deputy Prime Minister on 'United Will' for Accord

JN0203090494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA' has learned from a responsible source in the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers that brother Dr. Muhammad Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister, in a letter to Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has commented [words indistinct] that the implementation of the pledge and accord document requires, first of all, that the constitutional state bodies meet, particularly the Presidential Council which represents the country's political will. The accord document in the last paragraph of its last page stipulates that the implementation of the document requires a united political will.

Second, on the basis of the coalition government and parliamentary coordination document under which the present government was formed, and in accordance with this document the commands of the coalition parties should hold meetings in case [words indistinct] on the topics intended to be discussed at the Council of Ministers to [word indistinct] an agreement in this [word indistinct]. From this premise, it is important in this case to expedite holding a coalition command meeting to discuss the litigious draft agenda proposed by you.

Third, the present circumstances in Aden, permeated with [words indistinct] and media clamor do not contribute to the prevalence of a suitable atmosphere for the convocation of a cabinet session.

Fourth, while [words indistinct] their readiness to exert all efforts to implement the document of pledge and accord starting from the provisions of the document itself, we believe that your proposals on the draft agenda are in violation of the document and based only on the paper submitted by the Yemeni Socialist Party concerning the measures of implementation of the document. This paper [words indistinct] accepted by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee.

Fifth, the bylaws of [word indistinct] Council of Ministers stipulates the need to send the documents on the agenda of the Council of Ministers to the ministers five days before the date set for the meeting. This was not respected [words indistinct] current Council of Ministers. In addition, the Council had agreed to hold two sessions in Ramadan on the basis of the rule that is annually followed. These were actually held. [Words indistinct] an extraordinary meeting only and such a meeting is held only to discuss [words indistinct].

Sixth, in view of the fact that no party within the coalition can unilaterally propose the Council's agenda [word indistinct] the document of pledge and accord, we propose the following:

1. Holding an extraordinary Council of Ministers session in the capital Sanaa not later than 5 March to discuss one topic only in accordance with the Council of Ministers bylaws. This topic is to issue decisions on matters stipulated in the document and which are urgent and cannot be postponed; namely, the plan to arrest the accused who are at large and issuing the decision on withdrawing the Armed Forces from the area that used to be called the border areas, in addition to the decision that enables the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to carry out its follow-up tasks as enunciated in the document.

2. As for the other provisions of the pledge and accord document, we once again emphasize that the adoption of timetables for their implementation and the formation of committees for this is is a joint responsibility to be assumed by the coalition members and which no party can carry out alone.

Out of our concern over [words indistinct] expeditious agreement [word indistinct] the Council of Ministers following the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holidays, we propose that the prime minister and his deputies hold meetings during the period that remains from the blessed month to agree on these plans and implementation measures in accordance with what is stipulated in the document.

Paper Lauds UN Commission Statement on Marshlands

JN0203092294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH describes the recent statement issued by the UN Special Commission as a certificate of recognition in favor of Iraq and a slap in the face of the enemies.

In an article published today noting the commission's refutation, in a recent statement, of allegations regarding Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons in the marshlands, the paper adds: The statement issued by the UN Special Commission has shown the enormous misrepresentation of facts and malice that characterizes Van der Stoehl's statements and reports, which are full of falsehoods. This statement by the UN Special Commission has also revealed Stoehl's unjustifiable zeal.

The paper underscores the soundness of the clear and frank Iraqi position, which is designed to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people, protect them, and boost their quest for development, which is a fact acknowledged by friends and enemies alike.

The paper notes the lies promoted by Tehran and other covetous, hostile, and rancorous parties, which are unhappy with the steadfastness of the Iraqi people, saying: This is not the first lie, nor will it be the last. The UN Special Commission must examine the flood of previous lies, the truth and objectives of which have been exposed, and pronounce them as lies too.

AL-THAWRAH says: The allegations and fabrications made from time to time by some regional powers and some aggression states is a big unresolved hurdle that has been instrumental in preventing the UN Security Council from honoring its commitments. Meanwhile, Iraq has underlined its commitment by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The paper concludes by saying that to do Iraq justice, the impartial statements made must be translated into positive acts and deeds to remove the injustice and wrong done to it.

Government Forces Reportedly Shelling Marshlands

NC2802164094 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The forces of the tyrant Saddam's regime are continuing their indiscriminate bombardment of the residential areas in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate. This cowardly bombardment, which began several days ago, has set fire to and demolished several houses and wounded many citizens.

According to reports, the tyrant's regime is seeking to evacuate that area of its residents in an attempt to stem the tide of jihad operations that use the marshlands as a springboard. The reports add that the citizens of the area are facing the assault steadfastly.

BABIL on U.S. 'Domination' of UNSC Operating Mechanisms

JN0203132694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—The newspaper BABIL asserts that the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions on Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are flagrant evidence of the deteriorating credibility and role of the United Nations. They are testimony to the immense U.S. domination of the UNSC's operating mechanisms and decisionmaking process.

In an article published today, the paper adds: The U.S. moves to obstruct the passage of a resolution condemning the Zionist entity and authorizing the deployment of international observers in the occupied Arab territories to protect the Palestinians show the immense U.S. domination of the world body and the UNSC, and demonstrate the urgent need to restore balance to the UNSC—something impossible to achieve as long as the UNSC remains hostage to U.S. wishes.

BABIL goes on to say: The U.S. treatment of the UNSC is a clear message to all those who expect the "cosponsors of the conference" to find a solution to the Palestinian people's ordeal. For the judge is the very culprit, whose hands are stained with the blood of our people in both Iraq and Palestine.

BABIL recalls the rapidity with which the UNSC passed its anti-Iraq resolutions in August 1990, when it passed three resolutions in a single week. Together, these resolutions contained 18 paragraphs, the implementation of which is mandatory.

The paper concludes by saying: This is how the United States handled the Iraq issue and pushed the UNSC to pass a series of unfair resolutions in an unprecedented manner.

Opposition Alliance Notes 3 Explosions in Karkuk

NC2402180094 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] Nicosia, Feb 24 (AFP)—Three explosions rocked the centre of Karkuk in northern Iraq, but there were no casualties, the Iraqi opposition said Thursday.

In a statement received in Cyprus, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an alliance of opposition groups, said the blasts occurred early Tuesday outside an army headquarters, a state-run oil company building and near a giant portrait of President Saddam Husayn painted on a wall.

The INC is based in Salah al-Din, in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

Karkuk, an important oil city with nearly one million inhabitants, is near the Kurdish-held areas.

One Explosion Targets Saddam Mural

NC2802155694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] A huge explosion shook the al-Waziriyah District in the center of the capital, Baghdad, yesterday, four days after three big explosions occurred in Karkuk. Iraqi opposition sources said the explosion yesterday took place outside the entrance of al-Mustansariyah University. They said the explosion targeted a big mural, which had a picture of tyrant Saddam Husayn, mounted outside the entrance to the university. Security forces rushed to the scene of the crime and the main entrance to the university was closed off.

Opposition Reports Attack on 'Intelligence Center'

NC2802164594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Our heroic mujahidin have dealt a crushing blow to an intelligence center belonging to the tyrant Saddam in the (al- Ma'dan) area near ('Umm al-Na'aj) in the marshlands. Our sources in the south report that the mujahidin killed seven of the Ba'thist regime's officials and injured two others. The center was completely destroyed.

Kurds Protest 'Deteriorating Living Conditions'

JN0203102594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—The towns and villages of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan are witnessing immense and massive indignation due insecurity and instability, increasing crime, and deteriorating living conditions.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ reported today that the people of Rawandoz in the Irbil Governorate recently staged demonstrations to express their resentment and to protest their deteriorating living conditions. They also protested their intense suffering as a result of the services, administrative, and health problems they have been experiencing for the past two years due to the corruption of the agent and subversive cliques and their theft of the economic, health, and service infrastructures in the Kurdistan region, which were built by the 17-30 July revolution.

The paper said that the demonstrators chanted slogans about the Kurds' poverty and inability to obtain their food requirements, saying: "We want bread. We want freedom." This prompted the agent and subversive cliques to open fire on the demonstrators to frighten and disperse them, the paper added.

Peres Rejects Demand for International Force

TA0203140894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Palestinian demand for a bigger police force is legitimate, and Israel is prepared to discuss it. Peres was speaking in Jerusalem at a joint press conference with the visiting Cambodian Foreign Minister, Prince Norodom Sirtvut. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Foreign Minister Peres was asked about the long-term effects of the Hebron massacre on the peace process. He said it was a real tragedy that had created a great problem, and he took it very seriously. However, he rejected the Palestinian demand for an international force to protect the Palestinian civilians and for the disarming of all the settlers.

[Peres] We don't have to punish people who are peaceful and who support peace. What we have really to prevent is this small group of terrible, opinionated people, who may pose another problem. In a democracy, you act against dangers and you don't punish innocent people.

[Katzenell] The settlements will remain where they are, Peres said. But when he was asked about the proposal to evacuate the settlers from downtown Hebron, he said he would express his view at the cabinet meeting first, not to the media.

The foreign minister expressed confidence that the negotiations with the Palestinians would be resumed soon. I don't know what all their demands are, he said. I was told that they are interested perhaps in increasing their police force. That is a legitimate demand, Peres said. We shall sit down and discuss it. [end recording]

IDF Begins To Release Detained Palestinians

TA0103193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today released 570 Palestinian detainees from Qezi'ot and al-Zahiriyah prisons. By the end of the week 800 detainees will have been released. The cabinet decided to release detainees who were not involved in terrorist attacks and are not identified with radical terrorist organizations. [passage omitted]

Release Called 'Window Dressing'

NC0103173994 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By Barry Parker]

JERUSALEM, March 1 (AFP) - Israel released about 500 Palestinians on Tuesday [1 March] in a bid to calm the fury ignited by the Hebron massacre, but Palestinians warned that much more will be needed before Middle East peace talks resume.

Military officials said there would be further releases Wednesday and a total of up to 500 by the end of the week.

However former Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi dismissed the gesture as window-dressing when more than 10,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails.

"We are not looking for appearance we are looking for serious substance," she said.

None of those released killed or wounded Israelis, none belonged to groups opposed to peace such as Hamas and none had committed crimes since the September 13 autonomy deal.

"These releases are just a drop in the ocean without any political significance," said 27-year-old Nasir 'Azzah who was bussed back home to Ramallah on the occupied West Bank just 11 days before he completed a 21-month sentence.

"I'm not as happy as saddened and angered by the massacre in Hebron. Releasing 1,000 prisoners is not enough," said Ihsan 'Awdah, 25, who returned home to Bethlehem six months before the end of five years inside.

The carnage at the Tomb of the Patriarchs on Friday sparked widespread rioting which has left another 17 Arabs dead and hundreds wounded and Palestinian leaders ordered no celebrations for the releases.

It has also led the PLO, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to snub US President Bill Clinton's call for snap talks to turn tragedy into a peace catalyst.

Sufyan 'Abu-Zaydah, a senior Gaza Strip official with Arafat's Fatah movement, said: "It's too small a number. There are at least 4,000 prisoners in jail on ridiculous charges.

"Israel could free them immediately to calm the Palestinian population."

According to international human rights groups Israel detains about 500 Palestinians a week during normal times.

Abu-Zaydah said the release of large numbers of inmates was "the only way to appease the population of the occupied territories".

But violence in the territories and Arab areas of Israel subsided with more than half of the two million Palestinians still under curfew. Troops shot six Palestinians in Gaza City on Tuesday compared with dozens in preceding days.

Israel nonetheless reinforced patrols in the territories and along the borders, fearing attacks. Army chief of staff Ehud Baraq said the army was bracing for a wave of revenge attacks.

Pro-Israeli militia forces killed four Islamic guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

The prison release—a few days ahead of the annual liberation of a few hundred Palestinians to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan—was part of a package of measures announced Sunday.

They included a crackdown on hardline settlers who supported the mosque killer Barukh Goldstein, but the PLO rejected them as inadequate.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal vowed that four Jewish extremist ringleaders who backed the massacre, would be hunted down and detained without trial.

He said the killing of 30 Moslems according to the army and 52 according to Palestinian doctors, had crossed a "red line".

Leaders of the anti-Arab Kach and Kahana Hay groups, with which the killer had close links, went underground as the government ordered their arrest. Only one was caught in a police swoop.

Shahal said "a few dozen" members of the movements would be disarmed and their movements restricted. Kach membership was below 100 and Kahana Hay even smaller, he said.

The government also announced multi-million shekel (one dollar is worth three shekels) compensation to relatives of the dead and wounded.

It was the third release since the September agreement. Some 617 were allowed out on October 26 and on January 7, another 101 Palestinians walked free, most just a few days before the end of their time.

The last 200 of 415 Palestinian fundamentalists deported on December 17, 1992, were also brought back a year later.

'Greater Massacre' Warned if 'Arafat Prays in Jerusalem

TA0203141994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 2 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert this morning told the Presidents Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations that Israel should not stall the political process, but neither should it offer political concessions to renew the talks that are beyond the scope of what the government planned. Such concessions would mean a sellout of the vital interests of the State of Israel.

Referring to the possibility that Yasir 'Arafat would be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount in the presence of 250,000 Muslims during Friday prayers, Olmert had this to say:

[Begin Olmert recording] Bringing 'Arafat into the Temple Mount on Friday afternoon is the upset of every balance that exists in Jerusalem, and it may end up with a greater massacre. Remember my words! Because then someone will ask how dumb they were not to understand it. So I am warning in advance: It will end up with a greater massacre, no matter why, no matter how. At the end of the day, there will be greater number of casualties than in the massacre in Hebron, and everyone will come and say: How dumb we were not to understand it in advance. [end recording]

Olmert also said he would work to equalize the rights of Jews and Arabs in the municipal plane, and he was appointing an East Jerusalem headmaster to act as head of the Arab school education in that part of the city.

Knesset Committee Briefed on Hebron Massacre

TA0103124094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that the debriefing conducted by the IDF among the wounded and the families of the victims of the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre indicates that 30 worshipers were killed by the shots fired by Dr. Barukh Goldstein in the cave itself, four Palestinians were killed near the al-Ahali hospital, and another man was killed in a neighborhood near the Cave of the Patriarchs. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that according to Gen. Yatom, these figures are not final but are based on the information available as of last night. The number of people wounded is still being examined. Gen. Yatom added that he has worked out new procedures governing prayer in the Cave of the Patriarchs but has not submitted them to the political echelon yet.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq told the committee that the newspapers published a list of names of 47 people killed in the massacre. An examination of this list, however, showed that several of the persons on it are still alive and that some were only wounded. The list also includes some inaccurate names. The chief of staff believes this is the reason for the gap between the various calculations.

Gur: Hebron Took 'Defense Establishment' by Surprise

TA0203142294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has said that no one in the defense establishment had anticipated that a man would get up and do what the murderer Goldstein did. We were taken by surprise, the deputy minister admitted. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that, speaking before the Knesset plenum, Deputy Minister Gur said that very harsh steps will be taken against the supporters of Kakh. At the same time, however, the administration will attempt to avoid discrediting all of the Jewish settlers in the territories.

Our correspondent reports that the Knesset debate was very stormy. Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahhab

Darawshah and Rehav'am Ze'evi called each other terrorist and murderer, and other MK's rushed to separate the two rivals.

Deputy Minister Gur pleaded with the Arab MK's to go back on, and refrain from making statements linking the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] with Barukh Goldstein's shooting. Such claims are blood libel, Gur said.

Rabin's Office Denies Complaint About Goldstein

TA0203075094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] It has been stated by Prime Minister Rabin's office that no telegram was received by the office from the head of the Supreme Muslim Council in Jerusalem and the head of the Waqf in Hebron containing a complaint about Barukh Goldstein, the Hebron murderer.

Meretz Knesset member 'Anat Ma'or today presented the telegram in which the two complain that more than four months ago Goldstein attacked the muezzin in the mosque in the Cave of the Patriarchs and tried to damage the carpets in this mosque.

U.S. Assigned Share of Responsibility for Hebron

TA0203123794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "A Change of Venue Will Not Help"]

[Text] It is a pity that the mandate given to the state commission of inquiry does not extend beyond Israel's borders. If Justice Me'ir Shamgar and his colleagues were permitted to travel as far as the United States, it is doubtful that they would exonerate Secretary of State Warren Christopher—or even President Bill Clinton—from responsibility for the fiasco. The Americans are very fastidious. They meticulously word and file everything away. It would not even be necessary to dig up secret files.

The exploits of the settlers were cited in this year's State Department annual human rights report. The investigators would find that the CIA's agents in Israel repeatedly reported on the evil deeds of the Kahanists from Brooklyn. And, if he had a hard time reading overt and covert material, Christopher could have heard about it from Palestinian leaders. This, of course, unless he fell asleep, as he did during Clinton's speech in Brussels and his latest meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Old hands at the State Department cannot remember such a lethargic, bureaucratic, and hesitant secretary. Asked to comment about the fate of the occupied territories, he would have a ready-made answer: The peace process, and the process alone, is the solution. And what did the secretary contribute to that process? Twice a week he would grovel before Jewish functionaries and promise not to put pressure on Israel, God forbid.

The U.S. team includes a handful of dedicated officials who witnessed the birth of the peace process and are eager to hold the baby in their arms. The secretary reined in anybody who asked permission to intervene in the negotiations, lest this be interpreted as a provocation of the Rabin government.

The Jewish leadership, which has not yet shaken loose of the Likud's grip, knows why it prefers Christopher and has gone to great lengths to stand in Strobe Talbott's way to the secretary of state's office. Talbott's articles in TIME show that his views about the damage caused by the settlements in particular and the occupation in general are very close to those of Peres and Yosi Beilin. Prior to the Oslo agreement, I heard Peres speak in favor of working intensively on a permanent arrangement (a confederation) and skipping the interim stage. Why pay twice, he asked time and again. During his visit to Washington, Beilin publicly stated that he would forego the autonomy stage.

Yitzhaq Rabin apparently exhausted his ability to be dragged by the Foreign Ministry duo when he signed the Oslo agreement, and there is no way they can drag him into a debate about the future of the settlements/provocations. Since 13 September, Peres and Beilin have been asking the Americans to take action, particularly on the Syrian arena, but also on the Palestinian track. People who know Rabin know that if there is anything he idolizes, fears, and respects it is Washington.

If the United States had a President who could see reality beyond the level of crime in Chicago, he would ask the prime minister—to cite just one example—to tell him how he intends to deal with criminals armed with government-issued weapons who openly declare their intention to kill Palestinian policemen. After all, Clinton was asked to be the best man at the signing ceremony of the Oslo agreement. Since then, he has missed no opportunity, particularly in domestic political events, to boast about this feat. He must have reached the conclusion that a strong police force in Chicago would improve his chances of getting reelected. This is much more important to him than a Palestinian police force and Jewish criminals, or vice versa.

A month and a half ago, through his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Clinton made his most active contribution to the peace process. What came out of it? Another one or two—who is counting?—rounds of sterile talks in Washington. Everybody patted themselves in the back about the "businesslike atmosphere" achieved by cutting down the size of the delegations and the frequency of press briefings—some contribution by the only superpower in the world to the peace process.

One should not infer from this weakness that the country that put a man on the moon had no people who could read the writing on the wall. Appearing before a Jewish convention, Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. peace team, warned that long intervals in the negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles

between Israel and the PLO might jeopardize the process. His remarks cast the heads of the U.S. Administration in a grimmer light when one considers that he and his colleagues supposedly said the same things to their superiors.

Even now that the President has invited Israel and the PLO to Washington, it is hard to discern a substantial change in the way it perceives the problems and their solution. For convenience's sake—in other words, for fear of upsetting the Jews—the focus remains on matters of procedure and venue. The logic behind this passive approach is that the peace process itself will improve the atmosphere in the area. The massacre in Hebron made abundantly clear that what we have here is a question of ideology, which is becoming more acute as the peace process advances toward a compromise solution.

The only remedy to such an ideology is resoluteness and firmness. A change of venue will not change fortunes. Jimmy Carter did not overcome the ideologist Menahem Begin thanks to the fresh air at Camp David, but thanks to his arm-wrestling tactics and the negotiating methods used by a superpower with a protege.

Bill Clinton shares responsibility for the tragedy in Hebron and its aftermath. If he does not bring up the problem of the settlements with Yitzhaq Rabin, the Middle East will join his other failures in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and apparently, Russia. It is very doubtful that when the day comes, the Jews, whom he fears so much, will thank him for this failure.

Kahana Hay Spokesman: Rabin 'Should Be Toppled'

TA0203115594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Mike Guzofsky, spokesman of the U.S. chapter of the Kahana Hay movement, says that if the Israeli Government outlaws the movement, it should not be surprised later if the Kahana followers act undemocratically. In an interview with Qobi Meydan today, Guzofsky said the present government and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin should be toppled.

[Begin recording] [Guzofsky] Support should be mustered for the removal of Yitzhaq Rabin from government. Definitely.

[Meydan] You do not rule out the physical option.

[Guzofsky] I do not know what you mean by physical: Putting a bullet in his head? Is that what you mean?

[Meydan] I was just asking.

[Guzofsky] You were just asking. I think that, so far, the actions of Kahana Hay in Israel, the United States, and throughout the world have been within the law. In Israel, the rules are different because Yitzhaq Rabin and the fools in government are preventing Kahana Hay and Kakh from operating legally and democratically. So they should not be surprised afterward.

[Meydan] Do I hear a threat?

[Guzofsky] I did not make a threat. I am merely saying that when a regime prevents its people from electing freely and when it prevents the Kahana Hay and Kakh people from being elected, they should not ask afterward why we act undemocratically. [end recording]

Hebron Settlers Receive Restriction Orders

TA0203053294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Dozens of Hebron and Qiryat Arba' Jewish settlers yesterday received orders restricting their movements in certain areas in Hebron. The settlers told our correspondent Gil Litman they are forbidden from going anywhere near the Cave of the Patriarchs and the center of Hebron. The settlers claim they have nothing to do with the Kakh movement or other extremist organizations.

Weapons To Be Confiscated

TA0203073294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Dozens of Hebron and Qiryat Arba' settlers yesterday received orders restricting their movements in Hebron. The orders are signed by the commander of the Central Command. Orders were also issued yesterday to seven Samaria settlers, restricting their movements in Arab population centers, including Nabulus. Among those who received the orders are four settlers from Kfar Tapuah, including Binyamin Kahana. Two others are from the settlement of Yitzhar in Samaria. According to the order, the weapons of the seven will be confiscated.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 2 March on page A1, in a report by Nadav Shragay, adds the following: "The settlers who received the orders were told they can appeal the order before the appeals committee sitting in the Ramallah military court."]

Fugitive Kakh Members Declare Hunger Strike

TA0203122294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Kakh member Barukh Marzel has declared from his hiding place that the four Kakh members who are hiding from the security forces this morning started a hunger strike to protest what they term the government's witch hunt against them.

David Axelrod, the Kahana Hay spokesman who resides in Kfar Tapuah, told our correspondent Gil Litman that yesterday he received an order restricting his movements and banning him from entering Hebron and Qiryat Arba'. He was also ordered to return his army-issued weapon to the IDF. Axelrod told our correspondent he will not obey the two orders and that he intends to come

to Qiryat Arba' in order to visit the grave of Barukh Goldstein. Axelrod claims he should keep his weapon for self-defense purposes.

Civilian Killed, Wife Wounded by IDF Soldiers

TA0103200294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpt] A resident of Ari'el was killed and his wife sustained moderate injuries by gunshots fired at their car near the village of Biddiya on the Trans-Samaria highway tonight. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the two were evacuated to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tiqva, where the husband died of his wounds.

Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders arrived at the site to find out why the soldiers had fired at Israeli civilians. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an initial debriefing shows the soldiers opened fire when they thought they were under fire. [passage omitted]

Police Chief Says Territories To Remain Closed

TA0203123094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Police Commissioner Rafi Peled says the increased police deployment introduced following the Hebron massacre will continue for the time being. Touring the south, the commissioner said the closure on the Gaza Strip and the territories in general will continue until the tension, which arose in the wake of the massacre, dissipates.

[Begin Peled recording] Right now the thing to do is to calm the situation. People in charge should have an opportunity to organize and calm flaring tempers. I think, therefore, that the closure is the right answer at this time. The beefed-up police deployment will also continue as long as necessary. [end recording]

'Urayqat 'Slightly' Injured in Grenade Explosion

TA0203142094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, was injured during a confrontation between residents and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Jericho at midday today. A shock grenade hurled to disperse demonstrators exploded near the place where he was standing, slightly injuring him in the leg. He was treated on the spot and is now back home.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a homemade bomb was thrown at an IDF patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. The bomb did not explode, and a Border Police bomb disposal expert defused it safely.

Police Capture 4 'Terrorists' in Gaza Strip

TA0103193594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] A Border Police patrol captured four armed terrorists in Khan Yunus in the southern part of the Gaza Strip this afternoon. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the terrorists were carrying two submachine guns and three revolvers. Rioting continued throughout the Gaza Strip today, especially in the southern part of the Strip. Youths clashed with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Khan Yunus and Rafah. Nine residents were lightly injured. Eighteen firebombs were hurled at IDF troops in the Gaza Strip today. There were no casualties. Ten explosive charges were also discovered and safely dismantled. Gaza City and the nearby refugee camps remain under curfew. The IDF has up till now refrained from clamping a curfew on the southern part of the Gaza Strip despite the disturbances which have continued since last Friday [25 February].

Two Arabs Killed, Dozens Wounded in Clashes

TA0203124994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] At least one Hebron resident was killed by Army fire and 14 wounded in fierce clashes in the town this morning. There was also renewed violence in the Gaza Strip. Mark Weiss reports:

The clashes at various locations in Hebron erupted this morning after the Army announced a two-hour lifting of the curfew to enable residents to stock up on basic supplies. Hundreds of residents joined the violent protests, and 17-year-old Usamah Mustafa Ghazal was shot and killed by Army fire, and at least another 14 were wounded, two of them seriously. Witnesses report that a second resident, 18-year-old Nidal al-Hammumi, has also died of his wounds, but this has still not been confirmed by hospital sources.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 2 March reports: "In Jericho, soldiers shot and killed 'Uthman 'Ali Bargham, 20, and wounded 22 local residents in the most violent riots the city has experienced in many years." The report adds that "several masked men incited the masses in a mourning procession in the city today. The marchers began to riot, attacking the police station, at which point the troops were forced to open fire."]

Clashes continued in Gaza city and the refugee camp of Jabalyah this morning. At least 20 residents were wounded, according to Palestinian sources. The curfews in towns and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip were lifted today, although the schools remained closed.

The closure imposed following the Hebron massacre remains in force. The curfews on major population

centers in the West Bank remain in place, although there are frequent reports of curfew breaking and isolated clashes with troops.

Two border policemen were lightly wounded in stone-throwing clashes today, one in Ramallah and one in Gaza.

Permission To Extend Use of Loan Guarantees Sought

TA0203112594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel will be asking the United States to broaden the terms for the use of the U.S. loan guarantees in order to finance the building of a security infrastructure beyond the Green Line. Among other things, the money would be used to build new roads in the aftermath of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment after the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The use of the guarantees will be discussed in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meetings with the heads of the U.S. Administration during his upcoming trip to the United States. [passage omitted]

Peres Downplays Syria's Granting Exit Visas to Jews

TA2602172694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Feb 94 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Aluf Ben, Lili Galili, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Damascus has issued exit visas to all the 1,000 Jews who remained in Syria, and they are now allowed to leave the country if they so wish, Yosef Jatti, the deputy chief rabbi of Syria, stated yesterday.

Diplomats said this was yet another gesture of good will on the part of the Syrian Government in a bid to improve its relations with the United States and promote the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated yesterday that Israel still needs a gesture on the part of the Syrian president that will prove the seriousness of his intentions with regard to peace.

"If we are talking about confidence-building measures, then these measures are too small to build the necessary confidence," Peres commented yesterday.

"The release of Jews or the willingness to issue them passports are nothing new. We would like to see something more serious, along the lines of a public declaration such as: 'I want to make peace with Israel,' as al-Sadat did; or conversely, a visit to Israel or public negotiations on all levels," Peres said. [passage omitted]

'Tentative' Moves on Ties With Iraq Reported

TA2802173994 Tel Aviv SHISHI in Hebrew 25 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] The first tentative moves toward an Israeli-Iraqi connection were made in Europe by Middle Eastern and European elements over the past few weeks. These were merely preliminary contacts, but it has been learned that President Saddam Husayn did not reject the initiative out of hand. The elements apprised the Iraqi top echelons and a senior Israeli official of the situation.

The objective of the contacts is to set up a secret negotiating track with the Iraqis in a bid to include Iraq in the peace process. If the preliminary mediation goes well, the elements will arrange a first, clandestine meeting between Israeli and Iraqi elements in the not-too-distant future, to be held in the presence of the Middle Eastern and European middlemen.

The initiative was conceived jointly as a result of the various interests of the pertinent elements. The European interest is to rescue Iraq from the embargo. They believe this will best be achieved through Iraqi contacts with Israelis. They believe such contacts may assuage the United States' anger at Saddam Husayn. The motive here is neither the peace process nor concern for Iraq, but rather a purely economic interest on the part of the European country that initiated the mediation.

The Arab element's motivation lies in the assessment that only Iraq's incorporation into the peace process will exert dramatic pressure on Syria to engage in an accelerated process and get the peace process moving.

The European/Middle Eastern initiative was keenly received in Iraq. Elements close to the Iraqi top echelons have for some time noticed a subtle, almost imperceptible change in the attitude toward Israel. About a year after the war, it was learned that several of Saddam Husayn's advisers had suggested that he publicly recognize Israel as the only way out of the embargo, which was crippling Iraq. The idea, to which Saddam Husayn was cautiously introduced, seemed to enjoy the support of Tariq 'Aziz and Nizar Hamdun, the ambassador to the United Nations. The two men conveyed their suggestion separately via the president's relatives rather than directly to Saddam: Hamdun made his suggestion through Quza'i, the president's son, and 'Aziz made his through another relative.

As far as is known, Saddam categorically rejected the idea of recognizing Israel. Last year, Hamdun made another attempt, which also failed. By the way, Hamdun has never hesitated to admit in private conversations that he supports Israel.

A certain shift took place in September, immediately after the Yitzhaq Rabin-Yasir 'Arafat handshake. Faruq Qaddumi, who was the PLO foreign minister until then, opposed the agreement and was replaced in Washington

by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin. The frustrated Qaddumi flew to Baghdad to raise support for his opposition to the process. There were rumors that a new, Iraq-supported PLO would be established. To Qaddumi's great surprise, not only did Saddam withhold his congratulations for Qaddumi's opposition to the process, but he received him with curses and profanities and sent him back to Tunis without any support, either declaratory or financial.

A short time later, the Iraqi president relayed a message to 'Arafat saying that "Iraq supports the path chosen by its Palestinian brothers." Some claim that this seemingly surprising stand was the Iraqi president's way to repay 'Arafat for his sweeping support during the Gulf war. Other people, those who are familiar with the goings-on in Saddam's kitchen, believe that pragmatism, not gratitude, prompted the declaration. When Saddam said he was launching missiles at Israel on behalf of the Palestinians, he meant just that. When he said he supported the Palestinian peace process, he meant that, too, although he is still unwilling to announce it in public, primarily for domestic reasons.

With or without Saddam, Iraq will be unable to remain on the fringes of the peace process for long. It shares no border with Israel, and the Palestinian problem was and is the heart of the conflict. With this problem on the verge of a solution—be it quick or sluggish—the main cause for Iraq's hostility toward Israel is also disappearing.

The paradox is that the disappearance—or at least the reduction—of the Palestinian problem has caused Syria, the northwestern neighbor, to emerge as Iraq's real enemy. Both Baghdad and Damascus are ruled by the Ba'th Party, the brainchild of Zaki al-Arsuzi. Distinct brands of this party developed in the two capitals, and for many years now the parties, which derived from similar platforms, have been antagonistic toward each other. The Iraqis will not allow the Syrians to play first violin in the new Middle East orchestra that is performing to the tune of the new world order directed by Washington.

Iraq's opening conditions in its contest with Syria over Washington's heart are almost impossible, but Iraq is not giving in. The Iraqi intellectuals' exposure to the West cannot be compared with that of the Syrians. Members of the Iraqi academic community are known in the best universities around the world, while Syria faces the West approximately like Albania of the previous decade. The political opening conditions are disadvantageous to the Iraqis. The other opening conditions—academic, diplomatic, and economic—are all advantageous to the Iraqis. Baghdad is now trying to find a crack to insert a foot that will open the American steel door that has locked Iraq out.

Resorting to Israel as a way of opening this door is not the worst idea heard in Baghdad. For their part, the Syrians are aware of the possibility of a surprise from that direction. Knowledgeable sources believe that this is the true reason for President al-Asad's uncharacteristic restlessness and the sense of urgency he communicated in his meeting with U.S. President Clinton last month.

The Syrian president can live with a stable Israeli-PLO arrangement. A year ago, he even said as much to journalist Patrick Seal. Iraqi recognition of Israel would be a pill too bitter for al-Asad to swallow. It would mean that in the contest between the two countries to win over the United States, Iraq would have beaten Syria, Iraq would be exculpated, and that overnight, Iraq would become the leading country in the Arab world, together with Egypt, and certainly the leading country in the region once called the Fertile Crescent.

Since he rose to power in June 1992, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been "accused" several times of playing a divide-and-rule game with Syria and the Palestinians. That may have been his tactic, but it is doubtful. To make such complex moves vis-a-vis the Arabs requires exhaustive familiarity with the map of Palestinian and Syrian power components. The prime minister is not conversant with it, and no one in his surroundings is capable of providing him with sufficient professional counseling on this matter—not even Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, or the former Intelligence Branch heads, Shahaq and Baraq.

The real barrier is between Syria and Iraq and not Syria and the Palestinians. As in spheres unrelated to politics, the divide-and-rule tactic is short-lived and liable to backfire against the one who employs it. The Israeli approach to Iraq should be on the strategic level, which dictates the urgency of the Israeli need to reach rapid reconciliation with the Iraqis.

Two camps have long existed in Israel: the Iraqi camp and the Iranian camp. Leading elements in Israeli political, economic, and academic life have advocated alliances with either the Iraqis or the Iranians. This controversy seems to have been decided for at least the coming decade. Iran is gradually becoming Israel's No. 1 enemy. Iran's military procurement plan will very soon make it the most formidable military power in the Middle East.

The blend of military power and Khomeyni's gospel is a dangerous cocktail, and it has been the cause of sleepless nights for Yitzhaq Rabin and other officials responsible for state security. Expert evaluations speak of an Iranian nuclear bomb within six years. According to various guesses, Iran already has one in the basement. The Israeli procurement of upgraded F-15's at the cost of $2 billion was designed to provide the capability to reach Iran in order to take care of the bomb problem.

Just like the Syrians, Israel has always been fond of working the Middle East through messengers. That was the case with the Kurds in Iraq and the Maronites in Lebanon. An Israeli initiative for reconciliation with Iraq can serve several objectives, the first and foremost being the start of Iraq's rehabilitation and its evolvement

from a crippled country to a prominent power in the eastern sector of the Fertile Crescent as a response to the Iranian threat.

A strong (but not too strong) Iraq, which has a peace treaty with Israel, can become a potent counterbalance to the Iranian threat. Such an Iraq may even force the Iranians to have second thoughts about Israel. An Israeli-Iraqi reconciliation will rush al-Asad's Syria to the negotiating table and relegate the present power and prestige games to oblivion. If the initial advances take shape, Israel should seize the opportunity with both hands. Despite all the hazards which are forever present in the Middle East, it would be the most significant tactical and strategic achievement of the Rabin government's peace moves.

Rabin, Slovenia's Kucan Discuss Balkan Situation

AU0103172094 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] President Milan Kucan today will end his three-day official visit to Israel, where he attended the 4th international business forum as a guest. Vojko Plevel reports that he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yithzaq Rabin this morning:

[Begin Plevel recording] After yesterday's meeting with Israeli President Ezer Weizman and two meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, President Kucan also met with Israeli Prime Minister Yithzaq Rabin this morning. The two exchanged views and assessments on the current international situation, especially the circumstances in the Middle East and in the Balkans and, naturally, in Europe. They both agreed that the belief that the mere collapse of the Berlin Wall would resolve the situation in Europe proved to be an illusion and that we need to further strengthen our efforts to assert democracy as an alternative to war, as well as equality of smaller and less developed nations. Russia remains the biggest puzzle, to which recent events can attest.

Regarding bilateral contacts and possibilities for their strengthening, President Kucan after these talks assessed that with the Israeli partners he found understanding and interest for Slovenia that exceeded a mere bilateral interest. They have also shown an interest to intercede on behalf of our economic and political interests in their international contacts, especially where international policy is being decided and where they are present because of their specific position. They also fully support our efforts for integration into Partnership for Peace, which they, just like ourselves, assess as preparation for a new collective security system in the world.

President Kucan will end his visit to Israel this afternoon with a speech at the 4th international forum in Jerusalem. [end recording]

Rabin Turns Down Arms Request

TA0203095594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 94 p A9

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday met in his office in Jerusalem with Slovenian President Milan Kucan and turned down his request to buy weapons from Israel. Rabin explained to Kucan that Israel will continue to abide by the international arms embargo on the former Yugoslav republics and will not sell weapons to Slovenia at this stage.

The Slovenian president told Rabin his country is experiencing great difficulties due to the war in neighboring Bosnia, as well as the sanctions and the embargo on the region, and asked him to enhance security relations between Slovenia and Israel.

The prime minister told Kucan that Israel understands and supports the desire of small nations to conduct an independent life. Israel will be prepared to hold contacts on security-related issues and examine various proposals for cooperation with Slovenia, but will under no circumstances whatsoever violate the sanctions and the embargo, Rabin said. "Once the embargo and the sanctions are lifted, we can definitely discuss the strengthening of security relations," the prime minister promised the visitor. I hope our two countries will strengthen their relations and will soon be able to sign cooperation agreements on economic issues, investment protection, and tourism.

Slovenia has over the last few months been in contact with Israeli elements to buy antiaircraft systems. [passage omitted]

Peres Undergoes Surgery Over Weekend

TA2702143694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 94 p 28

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Over the weekend, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres underwent surgery somewhere around the eye area.

His doctors obliged him to wear an eye patch to cover the treated area. Consequently, Peres decided not to appear in public.

Peres did not participate in the cabinet session on Friday [25 February] nor in the meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held yesterday with the heads of the diplomatic corps in Israel.

The foreign minister is working from his home in Jerusalem and even granted an interview to Qol Yisra'el. It has been learned from his office that he will return to work within the next few days.

'Technical Problem' Prevents Launching of Arrow Missile

TA0103143294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] A test launching of the Arrow missile took place this morning. The target missile was fired at approximately 1100 [0900 GMT] but during the countdown, there was a malfunctioning in the ground system which prevented the launching of the intercepting missile.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the technical problem had nothing to with either the target or intercepting missiles. The date of the next launching will be decided after the reason for the problem is located.

U.S. Pressure Said Behind Test Launch

TA0103194994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report by army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David]

[Text] There has been yet another mishap in a test launching of the Arrow missile. A malfunctioning occurred during the seventh test launching of the Arrow missile. The project directors believe that the malfunctioning is in the missile's ground control system and has nothing to do with the missile itself. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David is here with more details:

This morning's experiment was supposed to simulate the interception of a surface-to-surface missile with a chemical warhead. An Arrow missile, serving as the target, was launched from a ship far offshore at 1100 [0900 GMT]. During the countdown leading up to the launching of the intercepting missile, a malfunctioning occurred, which prevented it from being fired. A built-in self-destruct system was then used to destroy the target missile. It is believed that the malfunctioning occurred in one of the ground control system's computers and had nothing to do with the missile itself.

Amir Oren, a commentator on military affairs, reported that sources at the Defense Ministry and Israel Aircraft Industries claimed that the experiment was unnecessary and was only carried out as a result of pressure from American experts also working on the project. Over the next few days, the project directors will continue to try and locate the problem and repair it. The next test launching is expected to take place in approximately six weeks.

Envoy Urges Security Council To Protect Palestinians

JN0103135794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Fu'ad al-Batayinah, charge d'affaires of the Jordanian mission at the United Nations, has called on the Security Council to embark on measures to protect the Palestinians under occupation in accordance with the Security Council resolutions on the illegitimacy of Israeli settlements. Addressing the Security Council during its session last night to discuss the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, al-Batayinah said: What is required is to provide effective protection for the Palestinian people to ensure their safety, security, and basic liberties, to save the holy places from desecration, and to remove the Israeli settlements. The objective, he added, is to continue the peace process to reach a just and honorable settlement based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and to ensure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Statements Urge Suspension of Arab-Israeli Talks

JN2702135694

[Editorial Report] Jordanian newspapers have for the second day continued to extensively highlight various local, Arab, and world reactions to the 25 February massacre at the Hebron Ibrahimi Mosque. Statements made by various Jordanian and Palestinian parties and organizations are either reported or published in full. Condemnation of the massacre is overwhelming and most published statements call on the Palestinians and Arabs to pull out of the Arab-Israeli talks. Some call for jihad and revival of armed struggle while others call for retribution and revenge.

A statement by the "popular and political key figures" in the al-Tafilah Governorate, published as an advertisement on page 38 of the 27 February issue of Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic and signed by four Jordanian parties and six al-Tafilah unions and societies reads in part:

"At a time when the Arab regimes and the leadership dominating the PLO are bargaining over Palestine, presenting it to the Jews as an easy morsel through the conferences of capitulation, the ugliest of crimes of murder, imprisonment, banishment, and displacement are being perpetrated against our people and brothers in Palestine.

"The crime perpetrated by the spiteful Zionist gangs against the sons of our people in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in which approximately 400 Muslims were martyred or wounded, confirms the criminal nature of these gangs—the sons of monkeys and pigs. In the name of the popular figures and political parties in the al-Tafilah Governorate, which rejected and continue to reject the policies of capitulation to the Zionist entity, demand an end to the current negotiations with the enemy on all levels and the adoption of jihad and struggle for the liberation of Arab Palestine."

The advertisement is signed by the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, al-Tafilah Cultural and Sports Club, al-Tafilah branch of the Engineers Union, al-Tafilah Charity Society, al-Harith Bin-'Umayr al-Azdi Society, al-Tafilah branch of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, and al-Tafilah branch of the National Union of Jordanian Youth.

A statement by the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, published within a report on other reactions on page 12 of the 27 February issue of Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic says: "We in the Muslim Brotherhood emphasize that the Hebron massacre, along with the outcome of negotiations in Cairo and Taba where there is full capitulation to the Zionists, confirm the course in which our movement has always believed; namely, the escalation of armed struggle and all forms of resistance against occupation as the only option for the restoration of the usurped rights. Hence, we call on the PLO and all the Arab states, particularly Jordan, to immediately withdraw from the negotiations. We call on the PLO to return to the option of resistance and armed struggle and abandon the course of negotiations and concessions which left nothing else to cede and which will open the door for the Zionists to enter our Arab capitals to consecrate the state of usurpation that is dominating the entire region.

While urging the masses of our Palestinian people and their struggling forces, headed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and its mujahid battalions to burn the ground under the feet of the occupiers, we stress the need for the solidarity of all sectors of our people and nation outside with their brother mujahidin on the land of al-Isra' [Palestine]. We also call on all popular, Islamic, and national bodies in the Islamic states to express their indignation and denunciation of the appalling crime. We also call for a continuous drive to raise funds for the mujahidin in the territories to be undertaken by the Islamic movements and popular forces in these states."

A statement by the Jordanian Democratic Arab Islamic Movement Party, published within the same report, but on page 13 of the same issue of AL-DUSTUR calls for suspending negotiations with "the Zionist enemy" and for holding an Arab summit conference in Mecca during the next hajj season to boost Arab ties and draw up a unified Arab strategy to extend unlimited support for the people in the occupied territories and "reactivate national struggle and jihad against the usurping enemy there."

A boxed statement published on page 15 of the 27 February AL-DUSTUR reads as follows: "Urgent Appeal to Our Mujahid Battalions of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam and to All Armed Groups of All Palestinian Factions: Hamas calls on its jihad battalions—the heroic battalions of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam and all armed and military groups of the Palestinian factions to reply and in

the strongest possible manner to the ugly massacre and avenge our righteous martyrs.

"Let all operating units in the mujahid al-Qassam battalions and all struggling groups be placed on maximum alert and a state of emergency be declared. Let urgent military plans be drawn up to strike at the Zionist targets, the occupation troops, and the hordes of settlers.

"Let today and all coming days be days of violent revenge and decisive reply to the ugly crime.

"God is greater than the machinations of the aggressor.

"Friday, 15 Ramadan 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 25 February 1994.

"The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Palestine, the Information Bureau."

International Community Said Responsible for Hebron

JN2702150494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Feb 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Ibrahimi Mosque's Massacre Emphasizes That Coexistence Between Arabs and Settlers Is Impossible"]

[Text] The heinous crime the Jews committed in the Ibrahimi Mosque against Muslims while prostrating in their prayers recalls to the mind the Jews' treachery, black hatred, and ugly crimes throughout ancient and modern history against our Arab nation.

The massacre, in which scores of Arab citizens were martyred and hundreds were injured, was certainly carried out at the instructions, or at least with the knowledge, of Rabin's government.

How can an extremist settler, carrying a machine gun, enter a mosque while scores of soldiers are there to watch those who enter or leave the mosque?

This heinous crime, which reflects the treachery of Jews and proves their hidden hatred, will certainly influence the course of peace process Israel tried, and is trying, to abort.

This ugly massacre, which is considered a blatant violation of international laws and charters and human rights, and which conflicts with religious and moral values, should not pass without punishment for all those who were behind it and who paved the way for its implementation.

Palestinians and Arabs should not be satisfied with issuing statements of condemnation and denunciation, and with weeping and wailing about the martyrs. They should seriously and responsibly reassess this situation and this tragedy and disaster.

Palestinians and Arabs—peoples and leaders—should reconsider their calculations and their position on the peace process as a whole.

It has been proven that there will be no coexistence between the Jews and Arabs as long as the Jewish settlements remain in the heart of Gaza and the West Bank. It has been proven that the region will not enjoy real, lasting, just, and comprehensive peace without israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, immediately and without any delay.

This massacre, which is a shame for humanity, and for which the whole international community is responsible, should drive the big and influential powers in the Security Council, led by the United States, and before them all the Arab countries, to take a firm position toward Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policy that threatens security, stability, and peace in the whole region.

It should urge the big and influential powers of the Security Council to send international forces to protect the Islamic and Christian shrines and Arab citizens in occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. They should force Israel to immediately withdraw from these territories. Short of this, the peace process will be destined to complete failure.

We in steadfast Jordan urge all Arab leaders to overcome their differences, revive Arab solidarity, and close and unify ranks to defend the Arab and Islamic shrines and our kinsfolk in the occupied territories.

Israel Must Outlaw, Disarm Extremist Settlers

JN2602151694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Feb p 4

[Editorial: "Massacre Seeds in Israel"]

[Text] The massacre that was heinously perpetrated against Palestinians praying peacefully in Hebron's Haram al-Ibrahimi yesterday is on the scale of the Feb.6 Sarajevo bombing that led NATO and the U.N. to move finally to curb the criminal activities of the Bosnian Serbs. As such, mere condemnation of the ugly crime will not do. The international community has to show resolve and vision in this part of the world too. But first it has to agree on the folly of keeping Jewish settlers in the midst of the Arab communities in the occupied territories. By placing Jewish zealots literally on the back of the Palestinians, the Israeli governments, past and present, have become accomplices in the latest manifestation of hatred against Arabs.

There is every possibility that the massacre will draw violent reactions by the Palestinians, which would add to the cycle of violence, undermining in the process the entire peace effort. While a halt to Arab-Israeli negotiations should not be brought about by any violent act, regardless of how outrageous and wherever it comes from, the Israeli government nevertheless is duty-bound

to take a number of immediate measures to help heal the deep wounds that yesterday's ugly massacre has inflicted on Arab and Muslim hearts and other human beings everywhere. The Israeli authorities should not content themselves with a thorough investigation of how the alleged killer got into the mosque and was able "single-handedly" to murder so many people at once. Israeli also has to release details of the truth of what happened and to reveal the full extent of any plot that may have well been hatched by more than the "lone" man in "mental crisis" who fired the shots.

But beyond that, the Labour-led government of Yitzhaq Rabin has to outlaw extremist groups among the settlers and has to begin today the process of disarming them in a prelude to taking all neo-colonialists inside the "green line." Those settlers who want to leave the occupied territories have to be encouraged to do so. Prime Minister Rabin cannot procrastinate on this for tactical or any other reasons; and certainly those fanatic Jews who live with their arms and destructive ideology in Arab cities and towns, like Hebron, have to be evicted right away.

There will be many questions on how the "lone" settler got into the mosque fully armed, started and continued shooting for several long minutes, without the Israeli army coming to the rescue of the helpless victims. There will be other questions on how the Israeli authorities provided or failed to provide timely medical assistance to the wounded, why they rejected all pleas for lifting the curfew against Hebron and troops went on to kill 10 more Palestinians on the streets of the occupied territories shortly after the massacre.

The settlers cannot be allowed to go on the rampage in Arab towns and villages, erect barricades and block roads, humiliate young and elderly Arabs under the eyes and nose of the Israeli Army. If this situation continues to prevail, the cycle of violence will continue and can ultimately derail the whole peace process, unless of course the Rabin government acts firmly and fast to save the historic reconciliation that was started in Washington on Sept. 13.

The seeds of yesterday's massacre were planted long ago when the Israelis brought in the settlers, the majority of whom are fanatics and religious zealots, armed them and in many cases unleashed them against the people of the West Bank and Gaza. The laxity and the carrot-only policy which the Israeli security forces have been pursuing with the settlers was bound to result in the kind of lawlessness and extremist acts that we witnessed yesterday.

Everything now depends on the way the Israeli government handles the aftermath of the gross and terrorist act at Haram al-Ibrahimi. The international community can help heal the wounds, but only if it brings pressure to bear on the Israelis to do what is right.

Speaker Birri Says Israel Seeks 'War, Not Peace'

NC0203104794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has said all the signs mean that Israel is seeking war, not peace. He added that Israel is behind the Sayyidat al-Najat Church explosion in Zuq and emphasized that the al-Ibrahimi Msoque massacre in Hebron is against the region's peace process.

He noted that the Arabs are facing real terrorism and that peace cannot be achieved unilaterally. He said the bloodshed in Palestine and south Lebanon proves Israel's failure to make peace.

Hizballah Deputy Leader Comments on Massacres

NC0203080994 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Commenting on the recent massacres, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim stated that political and human massacres cannot serve as a means to put out our nation's torch and weaken the nation's efforts for liberation. He said: If they imagine that massacres will scare us and make the nation retreat, they are mistaken.

Addressing a ceremony marking the anniversary of the birth of Imam al-Husayn and the Badr battle yesterday, Shaykh Qasim said: We are not only facing a plan to occupy the land of Palestine, but a plan to occupy the whole region. The West and its followers who claim to be Palestinian political leaders are working to take the land from its owners and perpetuate the usurping Israeli entity in the region.

He affirmed that the only response to the Israeli-U.S. plan is to continue the resistance so that the West and Israel will be unable to commit massacres in our region.

Comments on U.S., Israel

NC0103104294 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 20 Feb 94 p 4

[Report on an interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by Nisrin Nasir-al-Din; place and date not given]

[Text] Israeli forces continue to mass in the occupied strip while the enemy wages a major media campaign hinting at the possibility of a new military operation. While the United States is highlighting this atmosphere with official and public threats, things remain tense and the Resistance ranks are on constant alert.

So how does Hizballah view developments in the south?

Hizballah's Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim said he expects every aggression from Israel and at any time, regardless of whether there are any apparent or formal justifications. He said the Israeli threats are not new, because the tighter the situation Israel finds itself in, the harder it tries to escape it by flexing its muscle and by trying to use force to achieve progress in the negotiations and to compel those involved to make concessions. Shaykh Qasim added: We do not regard the Israeli threats as an exception but as part of the constant threat to the south, Western al-Biqa', and Lebanon as a whole because of the Israeli presence on our soil.

The U.S. stance is biased. It adopts the Israeli plan for the region. It is natural for the United States to propagate whatever Israel wants. U.S. sympathy with the threats is merely new proof of its collusion with Israel to prevent Lebanon and the region from having any dignity and to interfere more in imposing its policies. Another reason for the American and Israeli shouts is the effectiveness of the Resistance and its effect on complicating the schemes. We place this before all the nationalists and honest people so as to affirm the resistance option against Zionist arrogance.

Shaykh Qasim added: Another U.S. ploy is to urge Israel to remain calm. This is a known, sly way of distributing roles between the United States, which claims to be concerned about peace and security, and Israel, which violates a decision agreed on with Washington so that the use of force can be an additional weapon in subjugating the region. The United States should take its hands off Lebanon and the region. Israel can do nothing without the sponsorship of the United States, which takes care to ensure Israel's military superiority and supports it politically in international forums. Its pressures in the region mean that the United States is a full partner in the aggression and has never been a real peace partner for a single minute.

Shaykh Qasim believes that no one can guess the extent of the aggression. He ruled out the idea of an invasion because such an action needs the right conditions and developments that cannot easily be provided right now. He added that an invasion will cost Israel more than Lebanon because Israel would have to invade a people, not confront a regular army.

Shaykh Na'im Qasim denied reports that there had been contacts with Hizballah to reduce its resistance operations during the negotiations and stressed that no one asked us to reduce the operations during the Geneva summit between President Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: We do not carry out our operations based on the negotiations, because we do not believe in them. Our resistance action is a constant one based on the principle of liberating the land. The resistance will continue as long as the occupation exists. It might intensify or weaken according to conditions on the ground but not according to political circumstances.

Asked about reports of internal party arrangements in preparation for a settlement, Shaykh Qasim pointed out that the party is basically against a settlement. We are wagering on the failure of that settlement, he said,

adding: We believe the settlement involves enough complications and pressure to hinder many of its aspects. Failure is a possibility like all other possibilities. As for our internal situation, our structure considers every possible action under different circumstances based on maintaining the basic principles. There are no plans to rearrange the party and we believe there is no need to make such changes later, he emphasized.

Shaykh Qasim believes that talks are immobile and that no progress has been made along any of the tracks except the Palestinian 'Arafatist track. He remarked that Israel is confused because it believes in the need to make major concessions in view of the capability of the Resistance, the Syrian stance, and the position of the opposed Palestinian factions. This can embarrass Israel into making concessions. It is trying to avoid this because it wants to conclude separate deals similar to Gaza and Jericho and its appendix in the Cairo Agreement. Such deals would empty the various tracks of their meaning. Facing difficulties, particularly on the Syrian-Lebanese track, Israel tends to make threats of war then cry wolf to influence the public and thus find a justification.

Shaykh Na'im Qasim continued: We believe the negotiations are immobile. There are many obstacles and we do not know how they will develop. Man must occasionally monitor the situation to assess each phase in light of developments. But, he said, no matter how easy things might be, we do not believe the settlement will be achieved in full or that the occupation problem will end.

Al-Hariri Views Internal, External Challenges 24 Feb

NC2502150494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Beirut on 24 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Honorable audience, at last year's banquet, I said that only the state can genuinely express the national will of the Lebanese people. The state is above all, greater than all, safeguards the rights of all, and protects the future and unity of all Lebanese. I must reemphasize these points at the threshold of a historic period in our national life that demands we maintain the greatest vigilance and solidarity and anything that will spare the country's indulgence in petty disputes or one-upmanship.

Lebanon is facing internal and external challenges demanding the mobilization of efforts on every political, economic, and social level. They also demand that we reemphasize the state's necessary and basic role in our national society. Any future role by Lebanon will remain the target of containment and attack unless the Lebanese state—society and authority—rises to the level of this role, the hopes being pinned on Lebanon in the coming years, and the aspirations of the Lebanese, who are seeking progress and who strongly believe that the elements of progress have become stronger than the elements of anarchy and uncertainty.

I would like to emphasize the following main points:

1. The Lebanese state has primary responsibility for liberating the south and Western al-Biqa' from the Israeli occupation. It highlights the Lebanese people's right to use every means to achieve the goal of total and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, and Lebanese authority over all the occupied territory. Foiling Israel's attempt to undermine progress toward peace is a national effort in which we must all be involved, because the resistance of Israel is not achieved only with weapons. It is also achieved by political, diplomatic, and social means. We must choose the time and place and mobilize all our resources for it. We are not alone in this field. The fraternal Arab states led by Syria stand by us, support our legitimate rights, and understand our situation. The results of the Geneva summit between the Syrian and U.S. presidents confirm that we are not alone and that the Lebanese constants are receiving support, because they express the conviction of a people and the choices of a country. The friendly countries also hasten to assist us and respond to our wishes when we ask them to intervene.

Brothers, the delicate stage through which the Middle East, including Lebanon, is passing, together with the difficulties experienced in the Washington talks and the appearance of more than one trend in them, demand that the Lebanese people maintain their solidarity and unite their position in the face of the renewed Israeli ambitions. Efforts in any direction must be collective, not individual, objective, not random, and complementary, not partial, to achieve the desired results, utilizing all the legitimate means for an effective united endeavor. The responsibility is great and collective. May we be able to shoulder it together. God helps those who are united.

2. The Lebanese state is responsible for safeguarding the people's security and implementing the law. It will allow no party to usurp its role in this regard or harm the general and personal safety of the Lebanese.

3. The concurrence between the will to liberate the land from Israeli occupation and the will for development and reconstruction is a central policy in the process of specifying the role of the Lebanese state. The state that works for development is the state that can liberate its land from occupation. Development is synonymous with liberation and must not contradict it under any circumstance or for any reason.

4. The Lebanese national peace must be based on the principle of coordination with Syria and strengthening the relations between the two countries to fortify the Lebanese position in the face of regional challenges and prevent Lebanon from being isolated in the next stages of the developments, whether with regard to peace or steadfastness. [passage omitted]

5. Lebanon has made good progress in moving from a regime that handles the crisis to a regime that works to solve the crisis. The constitutional and legal institutions established as a result of the al-Ta'if Agreement are a sound national expression of the will for transformation, which we think there is urgent need to emphasize right now and in the face of any parties that wish to keep Lebanon swinging between crises and solutions.

6. Rebuilding the state does not begin by violating the law. In the face of this, we must not call for the revival of the state and compete to defend the democratic system and at the same time violate the democratic principles and laws. The just law of the state must prevail over all and be the judge among all. [passage omitted]

7. Balanced economic development is the principal policy according to which a fair country must act. It is the principal policy according to which we as a government act. We want our activity to cover all the Lebanese areas, particularly the areas that have historically been deprived of and isolated from state services and benefits. [passage omitted]

Honorable audience, the common denominator among all the points I have mentioned is the state and its role. We will be making a big mistake if we think that usurping one part of the state's role to benefit a specific party could enrich that party and make it stronger against other parties. I am confident that the state will prevail, through your will and efforts, irrespective of opposition by parties that feel they have been harmed as a result. We will maintain our policy on reconciliation, unity, and development. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Birri Blames Israel for Beirut Church Blast

JN0203124894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Speech by Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, in al-Qardahah, Syria—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Your Excellency President great brother struggler Hafiz al-Asad; Your Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi; gentlemen: While trying to mend our broken hearts, allow me to depart from the realm of emotions to the realm of politics for a while.

On 4 March 1984, an Israeli explosive device went off at the al-Husayni Club in Ma'rakah in southern Lebanon, killing a crowd of people and a group of resistance men. On that day, Muhammad Sa'd and Khalil Jiradi, two resistance leaders, closed their eyes for the last time, fully aware that lofty southern Lebanon will persist with its resistance activities, that it will bow to nobody except God, and that it will shed no tears, except when it beseeches God, imploring Him for mercy.

Now, 10 years after the Israeli crime against a house of faith and resistance, and only a few days before the anniversary of that event, Israel, using sinful hands, has perpetrated a new crime against a house of God in the heart of Lebanon. Had it not been for God's grace and providence, this criminal massacre would have assumed monstrous proportions. It is no coincidence that only 50 hours separated the two crimes committed against peace in both Lebanon and the region. One of these crimes targeted faithful people and the Church in Lebanon, while the other targeted faithful people and the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

This month, approximately two weeks before the two massacres took place, I said that we would face real terrorism that could revive the terrorism of the Stern Gang and Haganah. I elaborated, saying that daily events show that Israel is upgrading its combat capabilities and staging maneuvers, the last of which was staged in the Golan on 9 February 1994. All these developments show that Israel is heading for war, rather than peace. I also said then, and I reiterate this right now, that I would not be making any miscalculations when I say that Israel is incapable of walking the path of settlement, and of paying a price for peace. This is because the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese experience with Israel has revealed the dark shadows of an Israeli belligerence and occupation that cannot be removed by an unrequited peace.

The bloodbaths in the holy lands of Palestine and Lebanon are the best evidence that Israel is incapable of making peace. The new Israeli massacres are carbon copies of the massacres committed in Dayr Yasin, Qibyah, Bahr al-Baqar, Hula, al-Khiyam, Bint Jubayl, al-'Abbasiyah, al-Zurayriyah, and Ma'rakah.

Despite this bloody Israeli record, we still feel that Israel is granted immunity by the international community. It is allowed to act as it wishes, depending on the veto right, which is preventing the passage of firm international resolutions and the implementation of the provisions enshrined in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter against it. This renders the killing of our peoples, as is happening at present, a condonable crime, and the killing of a single Israeli settler or soldier on our occupied territories an unforgivable crime. Their occupation of our territories is justified, whereas our resistance on our own national soil is deemed terrorism.

At any rate, and in the aftermath of the bloodbaths the international community has seen with its naked eye, is there any longer anybody who believes in the attainability of peace on Israeli terms, when the places of worship have become targets of outrageous Israeli attacks? This is not indicative of a change in our options. For, in the first place, Syria and Lebanon, which share a common history, geography, destiny, and future, have adopted just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option. Such peace must liberate the territories and guarantee the restoration of rights upheld by international resolutions.

Hence, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has characterized the peace we are striving to achieve as the peace of the brave. This peace is grounded in the option of resistance, struggle, and intifadah against the occupation. This is because these things are an indivisible part of our ancestry, heritage, Arabism, and creed, and also because they reflect rights enshrined in the UN Charter and international legitimacy. The confrontation of occupation is upheld by the UN Charter and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Says Israel Responsible for 'All Crimes'

JN0103125994 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 1 Mar (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has stressed that in light of the serious Israeli escalation, it is natural for the Arab delegations to view the talks as a waste of time and to agree on the need to assess the situation and place the international community and the cosponsors of the peace process before their responsibilities.

The paper says that the Arabs have done everything to render the Washington talks successful. They have offered the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable genuine peace in the Middle East. However, Israel's response has always been the intensification of the settlement activity, arming of settlers, and urging them to commit crimes and destroy Arab property and houses.

The paper explains that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the subsequent events are the natural outcome of the Rabin government's policy of arming settlers and deploying armed settler patrols throughout the occupied territories. The Rabin government has ignored their

crimes and threats to expel the Arabs from their homeland en masse. In the same vein, the Rabin government expanded settlements and allocated large funds from the U.S. loan guarantees to build new settlements. It also forced the Palestinian side to accept keeping the settlements in Gaza and Jericho, where they will act as hotbeds of aggression and a sword brandished against the Palestinians.

TISHRIN says that Israel is responsible for all crimes and for the obstruction of the Washington talks. The international community is dutybound to protect the Palestinian people against Zionist terrorism. It should compel Israel to comply with the requirements of peace so that peace may prevail. Such requirements necessitate full withdrawal by both the army and settlers from the occupied Arab territories.

For its part, AL-BA'TH stresses in a commentary that the campaigns of denunciation of the occupation's crimes and glaring hostility to peace cannot be useful unless these campaigns are translated into practical pressures to curb Israel's defiance of the international community, which is looking forward to peace in this region.

The paper says: Therefore, practical steps must be taken to prompt the Rabin government to declare its explicit compliance with the bases of the peace process, so that the bilateral talks may resume. The paper stresses that otherwise, the peace efforts will continue to revolve in a vicious circle and the occupation crimes will continue indefinitely.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the sinful hands that shed the blood of our children and brothers in occupied Palestine and Lebanon are the same hands. Moreover, the fingers and even the fingerprints are the same. The paper says that even police dogs could trace the perpetrator and the criminal who masterminded the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the explosion at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Lebanon.

In a comment, the paper asks: Besides condemnation and denunciation, what will the international community do to stop the Zionists' crimes? What will it do to curb this racist Nazi Zionist ghoul?

The paper says that the UN Security Council has an opportunity now to prove that it is truly a council for defending the security of those who need it. The UN Security Council should defend the defenseless Palestinian people from the ferocious and horrible Israeli machine of aggression, the paper notes. The UN Security Council's responsibility today is immense, historic, crucial, and doubled.

The paper adds that the UN Security Council faces major challenges, especially with regard to safeguarding the peace process, at whose tables Israel is committing peace massacres that are not less appalling than its bloody massacres. It has a responsibility toward protecting the Palestinian people against the Zionist terrorism. The biggest responsibility and the biggest challenge is to safeguard the entire international security against the dangers of Zionism and racism, which thrive on rivers of blood.

Notes 'Fragility' of Accords

JN0203120294 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 2 Mar (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the fragility of the Oslo agreement and the ensuing frail and capitulatory Cairo agreement. It says this fragility has clearly manifested itself soon after the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

Commenting on this subject today, the paper says the desired peace is never an Israeli peace that comes at the expense of Arab rights and Arab existence. Peace does not mean the continuation of occupation and the existence of military and security positions and settlements. Peace is not partial agreements or separate deals.

TISHRIN says that peace is that which puts a final and total end to occupation and provides real circumstances and appropriate climates to regain the Palestinian people's political and national rights, including their right to self-determination. The paper adds that since the Oslo and Cairo agreements have not guaranteed these rights as much as they guaranteed the continuation of Israeli occupation and control of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and since they have given the occupation forces and settlers the green light to commit savage crimes and fascist massacres, it is only natural to clearly state that the partial agreements concluded between Israel and a Palestinian party have collapsed because the massacre was a natural outcome of these capitulatory agreements.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israeli terrorism is always ready to commit more crimes and massacres unless the international community, represented by the UN Security Council, shoulders its responsibilities and rescues our people from the Israeli killing.

Within the same context, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: What makes the tragedy of the Hebron massacre more bitter is the farce currently taking place at the UN Security Council. The Council has for over five days after the massacre and despite vehement global condemnation of it, failed to issue a resolution condemning Israel and its ugly crimes on the one hand, and providing protection and security to the Palestinian people on the other.

AL-BA'TH adds: This proves not only the different standards employed by the big powers in dealing with the world issues, problems, and crises, but emphasizes that the protection these states are providing for the Zionist entity and its terrorism in the occupied territories, southern Lebanon, or in what is related to the peace

process, is keeping the region under the yoke of Israel's aggression. It is Israel's crimes which threaten regional and world peace and security.

Commentary on Suspended Talks Not Harming Peace Process

JN0103154294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Arab delegations have suspended bilateral talks in Washington to protest the massacre perpetrated at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. This stand does not mean a relinquishment of the objective of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, for the Arabs are advocates of true peace and their sincere efforts have not received the minimum level of Israeli response. The suspension of talks will not harm the peace talks, especially since only a few days are left before the conclusion of these talks. Basically, Israel wanted these talks to be futile. Moreover, for more than two years, these talks have been confronted with Israeli intransigence and flagrant evasions of the UN Security Council resolutions and their requirements.

We say this because no sooner had the Arab delegations announced the suspension of negotiations than the Tel Aviv rulers began to shed crocodile tears over the peace process that they themselves foiled. During the sixth round, the Syrian delegation presented an objective and balanced working paper that gained support from international circles. However, this paper received no Israeli response because it calls for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the U.S. initiative—the land-for-peace formula.

The Syrian and Lebanese tracks did not make the desired progress, and the talks continued to revolve in a vicious circle. Israel has succeeded in pulling the Palestinian side out of the framework of the Washington talks and their tracks, and dragged it to Oslo. Following this, it proclaimed to all that peace has been achieved in the region, after which the Palestinians, who were supposed to enjoy the fruits of this alleged peace, woke up to see their houses and quarters destroyed by tank missiles, to see that the number of victims of Zionist terrorism has increased, and finally, to see the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the Israeli Army's serious escalation of killings. This Army has closed the occupied territories and subjugated them to military siege.

It is clear to the simplest observer that the peace process has been obstructed throughout these two years, and we can see no hope for the success of the peace process thanks to Israel's rejection of the UN Security Council resolutions, which were adopted as a basis for peace. These resolutions call for the return of all occupied Arab territories, for protection of their identity and history, and for a halt in the establishment of settlements there.

Israel does not want to return the land. Neither does it want to stop settlements. In fact, it plans to Judaize the land and to devour it later. All this is taking place under the pretext of security. The whole world has seen who is threatening the security of whom. Palestinians were killed while they were kneeling on the ground to worship God; Lebanese citizens were killed while they were worshipping God at the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. None of the Arabs has ever bombed a synagogue, but the Israelis have never spared a mosque or a church. They have committed all sins and perpetrated all crimes. They have ripped open the abdomens of women and killed infants in Dayr Yasin. Genocide has always been the crux of their aggressive, expansionist policy.

The Tel Aviv rulers claim that they have taken strict measures against some settlers whom they call extremists. These measures, if they turn to be true, are confined to merely preventing these settlers from leaving their settlements with their arms. It is to be noted that such measures were taken in the past and they were only aimed at deluding public opinion. The Israeli rulers are the ones who allocated billions of dollars to reinforce settlements in the occupied territories. They have cheated the U.S Administration, and the U.S. Administration itself admitted this, when they used hundreds of millions of dollars of the loan guarantees they received, in violation of their commitments, to expand settlements, confiscate more Arab land, and expel more Arabs.

The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has proven that it is impossible to trust Israel's claims and agreements, and that removing and dismantling the settlements and expelling the settlers has become a basic condition for peace. Instead of shedding crocodile tears over the future of peace in the region, Israel's rulers should accept its requirements and abide by the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Peace can be achieved tomorrow if Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories. However, peace will not be achieved today, or tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow if Israel continues its course of occupation, settlement, procrastination, and blackmail, and of rejecting a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The UN Security Council, whose members are now discussing the massacre, will fail to perform its tasks and to assume its responsibilities if it does not secure protection to the Palestinian people and stress the need for a full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal. Denunciations and condemnations are not sufficient to deter Israel and to prevent it from perpetrating new massacres, which will inevitably lead the region to explosion if the situation continues as it is.

India

IAEA Official Denies U.S. TV Report on Nuclear 'Hazards'

BK0203025994 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Feb 94 p 9

[Text] Bombay—Assistant Director General for Nuclear Safety, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Morris Rosen who was present at a seminar for exchange of operational safety experience of pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) here, said at a press conference that he had heard about the CBS 60-minute TV report on operational hazards in Indian nuclear reactors.

'I have not seen it. You have to be well aware of what's going on. You have to look at the design, operation, people involved and maintenance of the reactor'. 'In India. there is a well knit group with a lot of morale, which has worked together for long, has good experience an advantage over other countries', he said.

'In developing countries, the equipment may not be the latest but if you can adapt the machine to the given conditions, it is good enough. It is very easy to take a camera into people's homes and point out the dirt', he added.

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Dr R Chidambaram described the American television news programme as malicious, mischievous and a deliberate mis-representation of facts'.

The report purports to expose ill-effects of radiation due to our reactors by focusing on some village ten miles away from the power plant. It seems a deliberate campaign to misrepresent our nuclear programme " he said.

Th operational radiological exposure to workers in our reactors is within specified limits, our main objective is to reduce the collective dose, he added.

The CBS show had criticised the functioning of Indian nuclear reactors by suggesting that safety guidelines were being violated in their working.

Pakistan was conspicuous by its absence at this meeting which was expected to bring together technical experts of the six member states which operate PHWRs, namely Argentina, Canada, India, Pakistan, Romania and South Korea for an exchange of information on safety standards.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Relations With U.S.

BK2802093094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the government has categorically conveyed to the U.S. Administration that negative pronouncements by its authorities on issues such as Kashmir, human rights and Punjab will have a negative impact on India-U.S. bilateral relations. Answering a question, the minister for external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, said government constantly monitors developments having a bearing on India's national interests. He said government remains committed to policies in consonance with India's national interests and to take all steps necessary to safeguard the country's territorial unity and integrity. Mr. Dinesh Singh said all the recent developments in the United States regarding India have been discussed with the Clinton administration, both in Washington and Delhi. He said the response has been that these constitute and should not be construed to imply any change in U.S. policy. The minister said Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India and no mediation will be allowed. He expressed the hope that the U.S. Administration will recognize that the Pakistan sponsored terrorism is a major obstacle in restoring peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir.

Answering supplementaries, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, informed the Lok Sabha that a lobbyist firm is engaged in United States to project India's viewpoints on several issues and to neutralize anti-India propaganda. Mr. Bhatia said the firm is asked to project India's record as a secular democracy, irreversibility of its liberalization, need for new technologies and investments. The brief provided to the firm also include education of U.S. policy makers about the institutional framework provided in India to protect human rights.

Finance Minister Announces Budget; Highlights Noted

BK2802155594 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1450 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, announced the union budget proposals for 1994-95 in the Lok Sabha this evening. Let us take a look at the main highlights of the proposals:

Major restructuring of customs and excise duties; reduction in interest rates; steps toward full convertibility of the rupee; income tax exemption limit raised; steps for adopting value-added tax system; and higher outlays for defense, rural development, and for employment generation.

Indirect tax rate structure has been further simplified mainly to encourage the capital goods industry. The peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 85 percent to 55 percent, except on baggage and liquor which will continue to attract the present rate of duty. Basic customs duty on general capital goods and project imports is reduced from 35 percent to 25 percent. Duty slabs for machine tools reduced from three to two. New duty rates are 35 percent and 45 percent. Customs duty on steel reduced to 50 percent. Major nonferrous metals like copper, zinc, and lead will have a unified rate of 50 percent to promote investment.

Import duty on all types of ores and concentrates has been reduced and will now attract a uniform rate of 10 percent. Import duty on melting scraps also reduced from 12.5 percent to 10 percent; iron ore pellets from 15 percent to 10 percent. The import duty structure for chemicals and pharmaceuticals has also been rationalized and reduced. The peak rate of duty on chemicals has been brought down to 65 percent.

In the pharmaceutical sector, import duty on a large number of raw materials varying between 85 percent to 50 percent at present are lowered to 50 percent and 25 percent. Import duty on various machinery and raw materials to be used in the leather industry has been drastically reduced. The new rate will be 20 percent. This has been done to boost export efforts of the leather industry. Electronics and telecommunication sectors have also attracted concessions. Import duty on computer parts has been reduced to 50 percent from the present 80 percent. Similarly, the import duty on application software reduced from 85 percent to 20 percent. For nonelectronic parts for the manufacture of the telecommunication equipment, import duty has been reduced by 10 percent. The new rate will be 40 percent while on optical fiber it has been slashed by almost half to 40 percent.

Domestic watch industry will also enjoy concession to make it internationally competitive. Import duty on some items of machinery is reduced by half to 25 percent. The import duty structure on coal and petroleum has been simplified. The new import duty on these items will be 35 percent. Duty on coke from 85 percent to 25 percent. LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] to have 15 percent import duty, while naphtha and coal continued to be exempted. However, the changes are not to affect the administered prices of petroleum products.

On the excise front duty [as heard], the finance minister has also announced major reforms as part of modernizing the tax structure. The benefits of the MODVAT [modified value added tax] scheme have been extended to capital goods and petroleum products. The excise duty for petroleum products are to be rationalized. The existing specific rates will be replaced by a uniform ad valorem rate of 10 percent.

Concessions now available for the fertilizer industry to continue. Duty on manmade fibers rationalized. All fibers and blended or spun yarns will be charged uniform excise duty of 20 percent. There will be an ad valorem duty of 60 percent on polyester or filament yarn, 30 percent on nylon and polypropylene yarn, and 15 percent for viscose filament yarn. On cotton yarn, the duty will be now a uniform 5 percent instead of the present varying rates. Cosmetics and other personal care products are to cost less. The duty rate on these products is being reduced from 70 to 50 percent. But cigarettes are to cost more. They will attract an additional 12 percent duty. However, in the nonfilter segment, the excise duty for up to 60 mm category is being reduced from 120 rupees per thousand to 60 rupees.

To widen the base for indirect taxes, the finance minister has proposed to bring the services sector under the tax net. A 5 percent charge will be made on the amount of telephone bill, the net premium charged by nonlife insurance companies and the brokerage or commission charged by stock brokers for their services.

Various Officials Comment

BK2802161994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The prime minister has described the budget as development oriented with emphasis on poverty alleviation. Talking to our correspondent, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the budget will mark another step toward achieving social justice. He said the fourth successive budget of Dr. Manmohan Singh is a soft one with no additional burden on the common man.

The former finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, said that the budget will provide uninhibited access to multinationals leading to greater unemployment. He said it will also harden the decentralized sector. Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal, said the budget is for the 3 percent rich and there is nothing for the poor. Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, Congress-S, said that the budget is an excellent exercise to keep the reforms on the track. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India], said it is oriented to provide the growth of the private sector only. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, has said that the poor will suffer more by the proposals and the finance minister has given self-reliance a go-back. The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, felt that the budget will lead to a setback to the reform process because of fiscal indiscipline. The Janata Dal has termed the budget as a sugar-coated one and said it will further squeeze the pocket of the common man.

Talking to our correspondent, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said the main goal of the budget is removal of poverty and strengthening of the agricultural sector. It is toward this end the outlay on antipoverty programs have been stepped up by 40 percent and an additional 2,000 crore rupees has been provided. Dr. Singh asserted that the budget will not have any negative impact in inflation.

Iran

North Korean Envoy Comments on U.S., IAEA, Other Topics

NC2502182194 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 15 Feb 94 p 4

["Text" of "exclusive" interview with Choe Yong-no, North Korean ambassador to Iran, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] On the pretext of North Korea's nuclear program, the United States has deployed its

Patriot missiles in South Korea. How do you assess the U.S. and South Korean Governments' stance on this?

[Choe Yong-no] In order to assess this issue, we should seek the roots of the matter and basically see on what basis the nuclearization of the Korean peninsula is discussed.

The issue of the nuclearization of the Korean peninsula should be assessed from two positions. The first is that the United States has deployed its most advanced arms in South Korea and since these arms threaten our country, it is necessary for us to arm ourselves.

The second is that this is an American plot. By fabricating various documents the United States has sparked a commotion on the manufacturing of nuclear arms in North Korea. We have repeatedly stated that we do not have any wish to manufacture such weapons, that we have no potential in this field, and that we do not wish to manufacture these items.

We still do not have a nuclear power plant in our country. There is on[illegible]e research center and a few small reactors that we are using for tests. This center has some needs that had to be met before a nuclear power plant could become operational, for which these reactors were used.

Related to this, the IAEA has inspected our country many times and has stressed that our nuclear policy is completely peaceful and there is no doubt in this. A few years after these inspections they inspected our military bases and said that we manufactured nuclear arms there. This is a blatant U.S. plot; this superpower is constantly looking for a pretext.

Unfortunately, the IAEA has become a U.S. puppet, is pursuing a policy of double standards toward our country, and is accusing us of being in the process of nuclearization. This is at a time when some U.S. minions such as Israel and South Africa are equipped with the most advanced nuclear weapons and the West—the United States—is not acting against them in any way.

We cannot tolerate their policy of double standards and hostility, and have thus told them that they should rectify their unjust stance. For this reason, last March we stated that we would be leaving the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

We have repeatedly stated that the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula should be solved through direct talks. Until now we have had two official talks and several talks at the level of Korean and U.S. experts.

Recently the United States has trampled on all the agreements and issues to which we had reached a conclusion. Thus, the talks on the nuclear issue have been overtly placed at an impasse.

In our opinion, the United States has no intention to solve the nuclear issue through peaceful means but is mostly interested in solving the issue through force and pressure. For this reason, our country has issued a statement underlining our decisive stances.

Among the reasons that led to the above statement was the fact that the United States trampled on all the agreements that we had reached in New York. American acts and approaches are considered blatant crimes and a flagrant violation of international resolutions.

We once again stress that we do not wish to hold further talks with the United States. Also, we hope that the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is our good ally, will stand next to us.

If today we submit to America's incorrect acts, tomorrow it will be the turn of Iran, and then another country, to be placed under America's yoke.

[Correspondent] As you know, the government of Pyongyang recently expressed its concern over the launching of Japan's H-2 satellite and has said that this act shows that Japan's military strength has reached a sensitive point. How do you assess this issue?

[Choe] This issue is connected more with Japan's militarism. The Japanese are more active than anyone else in the manufacture of nuclear arms. A few days ago we received news that the Japanese will begin operation of a nuclear accelerator reactor. This reactor is the third such reactor in the world. The Japanese have stored a large quantity of plutonium and these reactors can manufacture several thousand nuclear bombs.

This is considered a dangerous act in eastern Asia because the launching of a space satellite is mostly connected with the collection of information on regional countries. Therefore, regional countries are worried about such aggressive acts.

The Japanese are the first and only country to have been harmed by the nuclear bomb. Therefore, they should not seek to develop such arms, in view of their bitter experience, and should be more interested in nuclear disarmament and the end of mass destruction.

[Correspondent] As you know, Mr. Ambassador, in Europe, which the Westerners consider the cradle of civilization, a war of attrition and dangerous genocide is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. What is your country's stance on the Serbs' crimes and savageries and on the silence of international forums?

[Choe] International forums have focused their attention on the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. We want a solution to the war and the conflicts in the region through peaceful means without any massacres.

Unfortunately it is very regrettable that international forums are silent and have failed to solve the problem.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that you were considered a Soviet ally, what are relations like with regional countries, especially Russia, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union?

[Choe] Trade with Russia continues and relations are the same. We also have political-commercial relations with the CIS members.

We had one embassy in Moscow in the past. Now we have several embassies in the region. Since peace, friendship, and the preservation of the independence of all countries is part of our foreign policy, we have no problems in establishing relations with any country that respects the principle of mutual rights.

As for Russia, there is no place for worry. Relations are good. But there is one thing that should be noted and that is that Mr. Yeltsin should not follow America around too much and make some effort to stand on his own two feet.

[Correspondent] In view of your country's economic growth, in which direction is your country moving: toward industrialization, agriculture, or...? [ellipsis as published]

[Choe] On the basis of President Kim Il-song's policies, our basic policy grants priority to heavy industries, while light industries and agriculture are second in priority.

On the basis of this theory, we have sought to develop the country for two to three decades. Last year we witnessed the end of the Third Seven-Year Plan. However, we have set the period beginning this year and the next three years as a period during which we will prepare the next plan.

During these three years, we will grant more priority to agriculture, light industries, and trade.

[Correspondent] How much of your technology depends on foreign countries and how much operates independently?

[Choe] We supply our needs mostly from domestic resources. However, we import some of the raw materials that we lack in our country.

Our country definitely lacks some industrial installations such as petrochemical refineries. Therefore, we have to import these installations and complexes from other countries.

[Correspondent] Which country does your country primarily depend on?

[Choe] Our economic relations cannot be described as being dependent on one country. We have trade relations with Asian countries and especially with neighboring countries. Before the end of the 1980's we had extensive trade and industrial relations with the Eastern Bloc. After the disintegration of Eastern Europe, our current relations were automatically created. But it is not as though our major trade and economic relations were dependent on Eastern Europe.

It should be noted that we have no relations with the United States and Japan because both these countries have a colonialist attitude and have imposed economic sanctions on our country for decades. Thus, our nation does not have any good feelings about these two countries.

Since the 1950's, the United States has been implementing its imperialistic policy toward us. It has always been seeking to destroy our socialist system, and in many cases we have been threatened by them.

The Americans have stationed themselves to the south of our country and are striving to occupy and destroy the Korean peninsula and are always plotting their objectives.

[Correspondent] How are relations with your neighbors and what is your country's foreign policy concerning your neighbors?

[Choe] We have good relations with countries like China, with which we share common borders. We have traditionally had good relations with our neighbors. However, there is strong dislike between us and the Japanese because of the great crimes they perpetrated against our country and people during World War II, which can never be forgotten.

[Correspondent] What is the per capita income, the gross national product in your country?

[Choe] Because our country's general policy focuses on the people's welfare, emphasis is placed on increased production and the government's policy is to ensure good living conditions for the people.

We have adopted various methods to increase our GNP, but I am not aware of its precise figure. I should say that our country is basically different from other countries because our government does not tax the people; as far as I know, there is no other country that does not tax its people.

Education is compulsory and free in our country. University education is also free and everyone can attend.

We call this method that has been put forth by our leaders as a "policy of affection," which is aimed at friendship with the people. Needless to say, our surplus GNP is used to meet the people's needs.

[Correspondent] What measures have you considered taking to replace tax revenues?

[Choe] The surplus GNP and any other government income is set aside for the next year and some percent of the general GNP is used instead of tax revenues to meet the people's needs and to run the government.

Another point that should be explained is that JAHAN-E ESLAM is known to our people. The majority of our people are acquainted with it and always consider your newspaper to be among the frontline newspapers.

On 19 March your newspaper published a commentary on our country's nuclear issue, which coincided with our

decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Many countries placed pressures on us to return to this pact. In your commentary you said that U.S. pressure was the reason we decided to leave the pact and that other countries are wrong to insist that we return.

Your newspaper's commentary was cited in our country. This shows that your newspaper was sufficiently aware of the crisis and recent incidents. We hope that your newspaper will carefully reflect the official stance of our government, nation, and country.

Emami-Kashani Notes Muslim 'Indifference' in Sermon

LD2502143294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1204 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, interim Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 25 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The people have become indifferent toward their own destiny, and the destiny of the world of Islam; for example, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again declared its readiness to send troops to Bosnia- Herzegovina to act as peacekeeping forces. If the world Muslims gave only one-tenth of the importance that the Islamic Republic gives to the Bosnian Muslims, and if the governments of other Islamic countries possessed only one-hundredth of the resolute will that our Islamic system has in its attitude toward the conditions of Muslims in that country—as well as Muslims in Palestine and other parts of the world—then the situation in Bosnia, or for that matter Palestine and other parts of the Islamic world would have been totally different today.

It is because of indifference that we have this situation today. In particular, during this auspicious month of Ramadan, the great number of preachers who deliver so many Friday prayer sermons in so many great and splendid mosques throughout the vast land of Islam must undertake efforts to make the people aware of their issues and inform them about what the world is doing to them: that is that world arrogance is taking control of some Muslim countries while at the same time attempting to bring the rest of them under its control too. It is one of our duties to make people fully aware of such matters. [passage omitted]

* Rumor of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Resignation Reheard

94LA0092A London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Feb 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] Tehran, [KEYHAN News Sources]—Once again in Tehran rumors of Rafsanjani's resignation as president of the republic are heating up. The reason for this is a report published in the 1 Esfand [20 February] issue of HAMSHAHRI. According to this report, on Saturday 30 Bahman (19 February) at a meeting of deputy ministers and chiefs of the nation's administrative organizations Rafsanjani said among other things that "no change" will be made in the Islamic Republic's revised constitution, and, "I will work in another of the government's fortifications as a soldier of the revolution."

On the other hand, some observers consider the comment about no change in the Constitution to be due to the fact that it is said that with the change in the Constitution Rafsanjani wants to eliminate from this law the provision that one person can serve only two consecutive terms as president of the republic, in order to be able to serve a third term in that office. However, in the Islamic Republic the procedure for revising or changing the Constitution has not been specified in legal terms.

There is only the fact that in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] Khomeyni appointed a council of his own choosing and arrangement to revise the Constitution, and the new Constitution is the result of that revision. The most important changes made in the first Constitution are separating the position of the leader of the revolution from that of source of emulation, and the other is eliminating the position of prime minister and designating the president of the republic as the government's highest executive officer.

'We Have No Problem'

Our sources in Iran write that if the Khamene'i-bazaar-clergy group had not tied Rafsanjani's hands by ousting his colleagues and close associates such as Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Mohammad Hashemi and others, Rafsanjani would probably have begun a battle to revise the Constitution and open the way for a third term of his presidency. However, with the repeated defeats Rafsanjani has suffered, the likelihood of his resignation is now much greater than the likelihood that he will open the way for a third term as president of the republic (see also our report under the headline "God Willing It Is a Cat" on page 12 of this issue. See also the column "Obvious and Between the Lines.")

Rafsanjani, who has fallen into difficulties on all sides, spoke at those meetings of "relative resolution of problems" in the country and added that the gains under the First Five-Year Plan were "positive." He said: "Infrastructure problems such as water and electricity, shipping and transportation, raw materials, reconstruction of factories and the growth of employment have been relatively solved. Conditions are completely normal and we have no problem with the reconstruction of the country. We are producing more than ever. For example, cement production has grown 5 percent over last year. If there is stagnation, where is this cement going?

Rafsanjani said the recent changes are "nonpolitical" and said the main reason for these changes was that "some officials" have remained in the same position since the beginning of the revolution.

* Cultural Assistant Appointment Announced

94LA0091A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 9 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] By order of Engineer Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, executive director of the Farabi Foundation, Mr. Ja'far Jelveh was appointed as this foundation's cultural assistant and assumed his duties. Since the beginning of the Islamic revolution he has been manager of the Radio Drama Group.

* New University Appointments Announced

94LA0093B Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] The Tehran University public relations office reports that by order of Dr. Gholam'ali Afruz, president of Tehran University, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Baha'ol-Din Qahramaninezhad-Sa'eq was appointed supervisor of Tehran University's Koran Studies Institute.

* Martial Law Declared in Sistan va Baluchestan

94LA0091D London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] Reports from Tehran say martial law has been declared in the province of Sistan va Baluchestan and military armored vehicles were positioned in strategic places in Zahedan and other cities in this province. At the same time, police patrol cars continually pass through the city.

Although the cities are apparently calm, they are full of disorder. The roads between the cities are reported restless. Reports show that armed Baluchis attack automobiles carrying armed forces. In attacks that took place between 11 and 16 Bahman [31 January-5 February], a number of revolutionary guards were killed and wounded. Likewise, three police personnel were taken hostage by the Baluchis and there is not yet any information about what became of them. One of the attacks, during which tens of people were killed and wounded, took place on the Nikshahr-Iranshahr Road.

The National Security Council, meeting in continuous session, issued a statement attributing the "revolts" in Zahedan to the work of "elements" who have "lost their interests during security operations by the Islamic Republic's security forces," and in this statement, in contradiction to previous statements, it called those "elements" "brigands and smugglers."

According to a report from Radio Tehran, 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic who is also commander in -chief of the armed forces, designated minister of the interior 'Ali Mohammad Basharati-Jahromi to take his place for three years in the police forces.

In the relevant order, Khamene'i gave Basharati "full authority" to establish order and security in the country. On the other hand 'Ali Sham'khani, commander of the Islamic Republic's Naval Forces, went to Pakistan last Saturday. On this trip he will meet with various Pakistani officials. Political observers connect Sham'khani's trip with the ongoing disturbance and unrest in Baluchestan. Officials of the Islamic Republic believe that the Baluchi rebels get most of the weapons they use to fight the armed forces from Pakistan.

It is worth noting that the Islamic regime's officials spoke of uprisings months ago and studied ways to fight it in the Supreme Council for National Security. Observers say that despite the government's willingness to fight the uprisings, because thinking has been done only from the technical and military standpoint, there are likely to be larger and greater uprisings in other Iranian cities. The same observers believe that if there is an uprising in Tehran, the police will have very little luck putting it down.

* Two Law Enforcement Agents Killed in Zahedan

94LA0091E London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 94 p 3

[Text] After severe clashes and shooting between opponents of the Islamic Republic regime and the revolution guards in the city of Zahedan and the discovery of several active opposition networks in Khuzestan, a broad wave of arrests started in the provinces of Sistan va Baluchestan and Khuzestan. Last Tuesday and Wednesday the city of Zahedan witnessed an all-out war.

A group of armed men who were apparently protesting the destruction of a Sunni mosque in Mashhad began demonstrating against the regime in a mosque in the center of Zahedan. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's correspondent reports that they tore Islamic Republic flags and chanted slogans against the leaders of the Islamic government.

At the same time, revolution guards and policemen, who had prepared the city for a celebration of the anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's arrival in Iran, fired on the demonstrators and received return fire from them.

For about half a day Khayyam Street in the center of the city of Zahedan and the surrounding areas became a complete war zone and the scene of heavy fighting.

Several residents of the city told news correspondents that the windows of their homes had been broken by bullets.

IRNA gave no further details, but it insisted that the demonstrators are counterrevolutionaries and that these incidents mostly take place on the days of the anniversary of the revolution, and it added: The hezbollah nation resisted the counterrevolutionaries, and despite the situation that developed, the ceremonies were held. Figures on the numbers killed and wounded have not yet been published.

Reliable reports from the province of Khuzestan also tell of an atmosphere of unrest that is worrisome for the regime. Last week a group making contact with news

agencies and Iranian and foreign publications reported mass arrests of their friends and associates. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic Government published a statement according to which national and army officials have the direct permission of the president of the republic to leave the country at any time. The issuance of such an order by the government, in view of the existing circumstances in Iran, indicates various kinds of problems.

Based on reports received from Iran, the unrest in Zahedan began when a report was received from Mashhad that the regime intended to destroy the Sunni mosque in Mashhad. The protest against this began initially with a gathering that took political sanctuary in Zahedan's Maki Mosque, and then it led to a demonstration where attacks were made against the decorations, lamps, and placards, which were made to mark the beginning of the Ten Days of Dawn celebration. In this attack two revolutionary guardsmen were killed and several of them were wounded.

According to the newsletter of the expatriate organization HEZB-E MELLAT-E IRAN, Mowlavi 'Abdolhamid, Friday Imam of Zahedan, is one of the wounded. His wounds are said to be "severe."

Talks with Mowlavi 'Abdolhamid by the Islamic Republic's representatives, who had come from Tehran to calm the unrest, ended with no result.

In the midst of this, 'Ali Khamene'i, commander in chief of the armed forces, appointed 'Ali Mohammad Basharati to replace him for three years on the police force so the regime will be better able to resist uprisings. The Islamic government also staged a demonstration on its own behalf in Zahedan. In this demonstration the regime's mercenaries chanted slogans in favor of the government and against what they called counterrevolutionaries.

* Majles Questions Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Economic Policies

94LA0090C London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] On Saturday, 9 Bahman 1372 [29 January 1994] the Majles began studying the 7,968-billion-toman national budget for the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]. The budget bill was presented to the Majles on 30 Azar [21 December] by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic. Statements from the Majles and opinions expressed in the Islamic Republic's economic circles concerning the 1373 budget are focused on three basic points: the assessment of oil revenues for the coming fiscal year, Note 25 of the budget bill concerning the prices of some government services and goods, and finally the issue of foreign debt repayment.

Oil Revenue

The most important point of debate for the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget is naturally the question of foreign exchange revenues from crude oil exports. In the bill presented by the government, 22,000 billion rials[R] of the government's R34,000 billion in revenues, equal to $12.8 billion, is calculated based on the sale of oil. This amount, which is roughly equal to Iran's oil revenues in the current solar year, is being severely criticized by the deputies.

The deputies in the majority faction of the Majles consider the revenues from the sale of oil as projected in the budget bill to be "unrealistic." Finally, after much discussion, on Sunday 10 Bahman [30 January] they decreased the figure to $10.15 billion. The note pertaining to oil revenues, which was approved by the Majles, makes no reference to the volume of exports or to the price per barrel of oil. To the figure of $10.15 billion must be added the $600 million expected from natural gas exports.

We note that according to Aqazadeh, Iran's petroleum minister, oil revenues from 1 Farvardin 1372 [21 March 1993] to 30 Dey [20 January 1994] the same year reached $11.38 billion. This figure was $2.8 billion, or about 20 percent less than the projected amount.

The projected figure of $12.8 billion in oil revenues in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed budget was severely criticized in the last few weeks by the majority faction in the Majles.

In a harsh editorial published in the newspaper RESALAT on 28 Dey [18 January], Morteza Nabavi questioned the fundamental assumptions of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget. He wrote: The nation's general revenues for the year 1373 were projected at R33,767 billion, and this was a 42.5-percent increase over the general revenues for the current year. In view of the sharp drop in oil prices for the current year and the failure to realize this year's revenues, the outlook for oil prices in the coming year is not bright or hopeful. The failure of OPEC members to agree to reduce the production ceiling, increased oil production in the North Sea, and reduced oil extraction costs for non-OPEC nations, create an uncertain future for oil prices.

In view of the above elements, Morteza Nabavi concludes that the price of oil in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] will be less than $10 billion.

Note 25

The second controversial point is Note 25 in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] National Budget Bill. If approved in the form proposed by the government, there would be increases of 100 to 140 percent in the prices of some oil products. Economic circles in the IRI say that keeping prices low on oil products, which is really paying major subsidies on these products, cost the country about $10 billion in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20

March 1994]. In reality, the very heavy consumption of oil products in the country is caused by their very low prices, which in some cases have remained unchanged since after the revolution. For example, the price of a liter of gasoline in Iran is equivalent to 15 centimes in France, meaning one-fortieth of its price in France! This situation causes Iran's oil products to be smuggled to neighboring countries, especially Turkey, where the price of gasoline is 20 times the price in Iran.

Concerning Note 25 and its consequences for Iran's economy there are two different views in the Islamic Republic's economic circles. One group says that with the increase in the price of oil products, people will not be wasteful and consequently the government can export some of what would be consumed domestically and increase its foreign exchange revenues. On the other side, opponents of Note 25 say that Iran's ability to export oil cannot be increased that much and that it would be difficult for the government to increase oil exports by decreasing domestic consumption. In this case, the only effect of increasing the price of oil products would be an explosive growth in inflation, while the effect on the nation's foreign exchange revenues would be insignificant.

The Majles finally approved Note 25, but it did not accept the increase in price for oil and gas products expected by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. With 118 votes in favor, 92 votes in opposition, and 2 abstentions, the Majles rejected a proposal to reject all of Note 25, and authorized the government in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] to increase the average price of a cubic meter of gas to R12.4, and to increase the price of a liter of the four oil products to the following maximum amounts: R80 for gasoline, R20 for kerosene, R10 for furnace oil, and R15 for gasoil, and the difference between the prices set and the prices for 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] would be deposited into the nation's general revenue account as oil and gas product taxes.

Foreign Debts

The third issue, which has brought on a great struggle between the government and the Majles deputies, is the repayment of Iran's foreign debt. In its proposed budget for 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] the government assumes that $1 billion of the nation's oil revenues will be used to reduce the level of foreign commitments. The majority faction in the Majles considers this figure insignificant in view of the volume of the nation's debt, and it believes that a schedule for repaying these debts is the first and most important issue, which must be clarified before any decision is made about the 1373 budget.

Ever since studying the budget bill (9 Bahman [29 January]), Mahmud Astaneh, deputy from Sarband-e Araq, as the first opponent of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget bill, gave vigorous emphasis to the government's foreign debt. He said: It is entirely regrettable that in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] we were faced with $10 billion in unpaid debt, and in the worst form, meaning several thousand small debts to different countries, and this shows lack of management on the part of the nation's economic experts. Yet in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] we will incur roughly an additional $6 billion in debts.

The speaker accused the Central Bank of illegally using government assets and said: Under Note 29 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget bill, the Central Bank was required to act in such a way that the amount of commitments at the end of the year [20 March 1994] would be 15.72 percent less than it was at the beginning of the year [21 March 1993]. However, it was observed how the chief of the Central Bank's performance and economic revolution amounted to an auction of the dollars obtained through the sale of national capital....

The deputy from Sarband-e Araq also added: One of the most important issues with which the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget must deal is setting up a schedule for the repayment of foreign debt, and yet in its proposed budget the government is asking authorization for taking on another $5.4 billion in foreign exchange commitments.

'Adeli's Return

On the other hand, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, whose position as president seems to be solidified, has again returned to the public eye, and in an interview with the English-language newspaper TEHRAN TIMES, published on 28 Dey [18 January], he claimed that "the government or the Central Bank do not owe a cent to any country or company. Rather, it is the private companies and Iran's commercial banks who have foreign debt, and even these debts are not fixed and they change over time."

The chief of the Central Bank said Iran's total outstanding debt is $8 billion, and he attributed that to the failure of insurance agencies to grant coverage to Iran's mid-term and long-term credits.

In response to 'Adeli's remarks, the newspaper SALAM, in its "Notes" published Sunday 3 Bahman [23 January], wrote: Really, if someone said such a thing who had no knowledge of the science of economics or banking affairs it would not be surprising, but when the Central Bank chief says such a thing, it is very surprising. We do not know whether the central banks chiefs in other countries can say such things or not, and if they do, can they still continue working at their jobs?

Does he expect foreign insurance companies to pay for the Central Bank's failure to manage its foreign repayments? It is truly interesting that he says Iran does not owe a cent to any country or company, but that it is these private companies and Iran's commercial banks who have foreign debt. We ask him, from what bank have Iranian citizens gotten credit certification for their

import purchases? Did they not give rial amounts equivalent to the foreign exchange to the Central Bank and other banks, and did they not establish credit certification for the purchases? In reality, before making any kind of purchase, Iranian citizens give the equivalent amount in rials to the banks and after that it is these banks who deal with the foreign companies, and no Iranian citizen is in debt for this credit, it is the banks who are in debt and we all know that the banks in Iran are government banks. That is, it is the Government of Iran that is in debt, and nothing is changed by saying such things.

* HAMSHAHRI Most Successful Paper Published

94LA0091G London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Feb 94 p 12

[Text] The newspaper HAMSHAHRI, published daily with a circulation of 200,000, is undoubtedly one of Iran's most successful newspapers. The secret of this success is not just that this newspaper is full of content and variety and sells at half the price—5 tomans—of the rest of Tehran's newspapers. Nor is its success due only to the fact that it has a professional and experienced staff. Sociologists and media experts emphasize two other factors in this regard: One is the fact that it is very appealing as a four-color newspaper with a more attractive and orderly layout in a land where the revolution has eliminated all colors other than black and white. The other factor is that HAMSHAHRI is basically a "nonpolitical" newspaper, in the sense that in reading and looking at it one concludes that it does not insist on showing itself as a staunch defender of the government and the revolution.

Informed observers say HAMSHAHRI has chosen all these methods and procedures according to a calculated plan. Whatever the truth may be, it is clear that two newspapers, one of them KEYHAN of Tehran and the other the heavyweight JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, make most of their attacks against HAMSHAHRI, with such things as their criticism of the mayor for spending the "public treasury" to publish a newspaper to make propaganda for himself.

Despite all this, no one knows whether this newspaper has revenues and income or whether it really gets help from the municipal government. If the opponents of the mayor and the monthly HAMSHAHRI could do so, they would stop its publication, but it seems that their power has not yet reached the newspaper, even though one of the regime's most powerful clerics, Ayatollah Khaz'ali, has said concerning the mayor that he is one step away from a religious decree that he should be killed.

* Capital Flight Reached $8 Billion in 1993

94LA0090A London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] KEYHAN Economic Service—Based on the latest reports received from Tehran, following the serious disruption of the economic situation in the Islamic Republic and the intensification of the political disorder, there has been a striking increase in the illegal flight of capital from Iran. Sources close to international financial organizations who follow changes in Iran have confirmed these reports. They say the relatively old phenomenon of capital fleeing from this country has taken on unprecedented proportions in recent months.

At the European headquarters of the World Bank in Paris, a high-ranking official who did not want to be identified told KEYHAN (published in London) that according to the latest assessment by this organization, in the year 1993 about $8 billion in capital left Iran in various forms. The same official disclosed that World Bank delegates recently submitted the results of their assessment of this matter in Tehran. Six members of the World Bank met with Morteza Mohammad-Khani, minister of economic and financial affairs. This meeting was attended by Daniel [?Pupay], director of World Bank cooperation with Morocco and Iran.

Why The Flight of Capital?

So far spokesmen for the Islamic Republic government have treated the flight of capital as a normal phenomenon and have attributed its increase in the years since the revolution to the ill will of those affiliated with the monarchy regime and to the consequences of the war. In its issue of 17 Mehr 1372 [9 October 1993], the newspaper RESALAT wrote: Based on the estimates that were made, the volume of capital leaving Iran between the years 1352 [21 March 1973- 20 March 1974] and 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] was more than $27 billion, or about $2 billion per year. The peak was in the years 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] to 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981], when agents and affiliates of the former regime played the basic role.

However, the end of the war and the beginning of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy of "reform" was only able to halt temporarily the massive flight of capital from Iran. This halt ended months ago and has resumed at a more rapid rate with the weakened position of those who supported "economic adjustment" and the terror of the economic crisis. In the view of foreign and domestic experts, the expedited flight of capital is caused by four factors, the decline in value of the rial, increased insecurity for investors, disorder in economic policy making, and Iran's increased foreign debt.

1. The drop in value of the rial: Heightening inflation and the irresistible erosion of the value of Iran's national currency against international currencies is one of the main reasons for the flight of capital. In view of the nation's empty foreign exchange stocks, the drop in the price of oil, factory shutdowns and the unprecedented increase in the demand for foreign exchange, Iranian public opinion is convinced that the price of the dollar on the free market, which is already hovering around 212 tomans, will not remain at its current level and that the rial will continue to fall (late in the week a report was

received that the price of the dollar on the Tehran foreign exchange market reached 219 tomans). The long-term outlook for Iran's national currency is especially dark in view of the fact that all the Islamic Republic's experts expect a significant increase in the inflation rate in the coming months. 'Ali Taqi-Khamushi, deputy from Tehran and chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, recently discussed the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget bill. He said: Unfortunately, this budget includes inflation of 50 to 60 percent.

2. Increased insecurity for investors: They have compared capital to a bird that lands only in a secure environment and flees as soon as it senses danger. Since the time of the revolution of 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], the Islamic Republic has never been able to encourage Iran's capital to participate actively in the task of the nation's economic reconstruction. In the insecure atmosphere the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult has created in Iran, capital has been either going into short-term profitable activities such as brokering and speculating, or it has been going to foreign countries at any price.

3. Disorder in economic policymaking: The lack of any kind of specific economic policy, the war between factions over directions for development and continuous changes in choices have made investors despair concerning the future and persuaded them either to leave their capital inactive or send it out of the country. In the last year, following the paralysis of the nation's economic leadership apparatus and the crisis in the policy of "economic adjustment," there has been a vast wave of confusion in Iran's economic and financial circles and confidence in the future has been severely shaken.

4. Increased foreign debt: The experience of Third World debtor nations, especially in Latin America, shows that there is a close relationship between increased foreign debt on the one hand and the rapid flight of capital on the other unless the indebtedness can be used in the framework of a specific and constructive economic strategy to strengthen industrial foundations. Iran's foreign debt, as we know, is one of the worst kinds of debt a country can have, because it has been used to import consumer goods. Moreover, because of its nature (taking the form of usance), it comes at very high interest. Increased foreign debt in a country like Iran is indicative of even greater instability in its political and economic positions and for this reason has made the atmosphere even more insecure for investors, and it increases the illegal flight of capital.

Consequences of Capital Flight

Iranian capital makes its way abroad in various ways: In the form of cash in the transfer of foreign exchange, through manipulation in the prices of export or import goods, and other means. For example, exporters can show the amount of foreign exchange earned from their exports to be less than it is and they can keep the difference between the real foreign exchange and the amount declared abroad. Likewise, importers may negotiate with foreign companies to show the foreign exchange needed to be greater than it actually is and keep the difference abroad.

The flight of capital, in whatever form it takes, is very costly to Iran's economy. The consequences can be summarized as follows:

- A significant portion of the nation's domestic savings is transferred abroad instead of being used in economic circuits.
- The portion of incomes subject to taxes is reduced, and since the government's revenues also decreases, a significant share of the tax burden falls on the weak classes.
- It increases the demand for foreign exchange and for this reason the fall of the rial against foreign currencies is precipitated.
- It decreases the resources needed for domestic investment and drives the country to borrowing on the international financial markets, thereby increasing the nation's foreign debt.

Economic experts say the only way to combat the flight of capital is to create a secure atmosphere, restore the overall economy to soundness and put producing units into operation. Legal restraints in this regard are not that effective.

The Search for Capital

The flight of $8 billion in capital in one year is taking place at a time when Iran is faced with an unprecedented drop in foreign exchange. On Tuesday 12 Bahman [1 January] Hasan Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Majles, said in the province of Semnan that due to the drop in the price of oil Iran has suffered a $4 billion revenue loss in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. He added that during the First Five-Year Plan Iran lost $6.4 billion in foreign exchange due to fluctuations in the price of the dollar against other currencies. Rowhani said: We sell oil in dollars, but our purchases are recognized in pounds, yens, marks, and other currencies.

The foreign exchange shortage has halted many of the Islamic Republic's development programs. Even development projects in the nation's oil regions in the Persian Gulf have stopped. The newspaper SALAM's correspondent in the oil regions of the Persian Gulf reports that the development projects in the nation's oil regions in these areas have been stopped by the government because of the failure to allocate sufficient credits, and Iran's shared gas reserves are being drained by nations in the Persian Gulf.

On Sunday 11 Bahman [31 December] Engineer 'Abbas Vakil, chief of the Lavan oil district, said: Due to the failure to allocate credits and to make suitable investments to develop the Dalan-Kangan (Khuf) gas field that is shared by Iran and Abu Dhabi, this project has stopped. There is no gas exploitation or development

being done by Iran, and the Abu Dhabi government is using advanced techniques to produce and extract the shared gas from this field.

Engineer 'Abbas Vakil emphasized the need for Iran to invest in activity and exploitation in this gas field. He said: The Khuf gas field has been in use by the government of Abu Dhabi for three to four years. The Khuf gas field is in the lower layer of the Mosalman gas field, 150 km from Lavan Island.

The severe shortage of foreign exchange and the halting of many development projects has persuaded the Islamic Republic's officials again to seek foreign investment. Morteza Mohammad Khan, the Islamic Republic's minister of economic and financial affairs, recently met with Rafi' al-Din Ahmad, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and told him: "Economic and legal conditions are favorable in Iran for attracting and supporting foreign investment."

Mohammad Khan is inviting foreigners to invest in the Islamic Republic at a time when the uproar of opposition to Coca-ola has provoked very negative reactions outside Iran. Recently Mohsen Rafiqdust, supervisor of the Foundation for War Veterans and the Oppressed, said: We will remove the American Coca-ola company from Iran.

In its 5 Bahman article [25 December], writing in this same vein, the newspaper SALAM published an article quoting one of its readers: The question that comes to my mind is, this company (Coca-ola) has invested and started a factory with lawful authorization, and all the public officials have witnessed its activities and advertising. Now why all of a sudden is there all this commotion about removing it?

A reader of SALAM—or perhaps the newspaper's editorial board preferred to have this said in the words of a "reader"—wrote in answer to the above question: "Zarifi said that this company, associated with world-devouring America, has created problems in the field of competition for domestic producers affiliated with the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans. Therefore, the chief of this foundation's very serious opposition is not without its points!" Of course, to obtain his reward in the hereafter, it is useful for him to invoke the war against the cultural invasion.

In any case, this measure by Mr.Mohsen Rafiqdust shows to what extent the public atmosphere in Iran is ready to protect Iranian investments and to attract foreign investments.

* Reduction of Foreign Debts by Cutting Imports Fails

94LA0090B London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jan 94 p 4

[Text] KEYHAN Economic Service—The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to find a way to deal with its foreign exchange commitments and get out of its foreign-debt bind by sharply cutting imports. This measure, which has created one of the most severe fluctuations in the history of Iran's foreign trade, has not just affected the import of consumer goods, it has also created daily increasing problems for industrial units in meeting their import needs, and in some areas it even threatens to stop the production cycle.

Economic experts in the Iranian capital say cutting exports alone will not solve Iran's foreign debt problems, and that hasty measures taken for public display in this area will only lead to greater disruption of Iran's productive ability.

From $29 Billion to $12 Billion?

Based on the predictions of some Iranian and foreign sources, the volume of Iran's imports will drop from $29 billion in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] to about $12 billion in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994]. If this occurs, Iran's imports will drop 58 percent in 12 months. It is said that this year only America was unable to increase its exports to Iran.

Concerning the amount of Iran's imports in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], the figure of $29 billion is based on a statistic published late in the month of Azar [22 November-21 December] by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Office of Statistics and Machine Services. In its report, the Customs Office emphasized that this volume of imports includes political exemptions, foreign goods in transit, goods accompanying travelers, and smuggled goods, and if these goods are counted, imports for the year 1371 will be more than $29 billion. The largest amount of goods in terms of value in the year 1371 came into the country from Germany, Japan, and Italy.

Reports published recently by foreign sources show that there was a significant drop in the exports from the above three countries to Iran. Based on the latest statistics published by the Japanese Foreign Trade Organization, in the first nine months of the year 1993 (winter through summer of last year) Iran imported about $1.2 billion from Japan, while the value of Iran's imports from Japan in the first nine months of 1992 was $2.1 billion.

The total volume of Germany's exports to Iran in 1993 decreased about 40 percent, but no reliable reports in this regard have yet been received. In Italy, hundreds of small- and medium-sized companies active in the Iranian market are on the verge of bankruptcy because of the sharp drop in exports to the Islamic Republic and hundreds of their workers are faced with unemployment. This situation has developed as the result of Iran's new import policy, and it has also caused insurance guaranteeing exports to Iran to be cut by the Italian Export Credit Insurance Agency, known as Sace. Sace, following the lead of its Western counterparts such as COFACE [Foreign Trade-Insurance Credit Company] in France

and Hermes [export credit guaranteee agency] in Germany, is refusing to issue insurance coverage on exports by Italian companies to Iran. A group of Italian parliamentary deputies, in asking a question of the government of that country, warned of the unemployment of those hundreds of workers. They said: "What Sace did with exports to Iran has caused heavy losses for Italian companies, because those companies, after signing contracts with their counterparts in Iran, have stopped production because of Sace's failure to make a quick decision and they have stopped exports to Iran." The measure taken by Sace followed the intensification of the frightening financial conditions in the Islamic Republic of Iran and this country's inability to meet its foreign commitments.

Highest Rate of Debt Growth

Iran's financial crisis mainly came about in the wake of the disruption of its trade balance, meaning the dominance of imports over exports. The nation's trade deficit went from $7 billion in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] to $10 billion in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993]. The result was that Iran's foreign debt reached astronomical levels, rising to about $30 billion (or, according to some Iranian sources, including the newspaper SALAM, to about $40 billion). In its recent report on world debt published as World Debt Tables, the World Bank said Iran had the highest rate of debt growth among the Middle Eastern and North African nations. This report, which is published annually, shows the latest short-term and long-term debt situation for all nations.

This report says Iran's foreign debt increased from $11.3 billion in 1991 to $14.2 billion at the end of 1992, amounting to about 13 percent of the value of Iran's gross domestic product [GDP]. This figure was about 10 percent at the end of the year 1991. The aforementioned report also says that in the year 1992, 78 percent of Iran's foreign debt was short-term debt. The World Bank concludes that Iran's rate of acquiring debt is the highest among the nations of the Middle East and North Africa.

Can the policy of sharply reducing imports put an end to Iran's foreign debt crisis? Apparently the repayment of debt, which is mostly short term and at high interest rates, is a priority for Iran's economic policymakers. However, there is much evidence that this crisis cannot be solved by reducing imports alone.

First of all, even if the Islamic Republic could reduce imports to $13 billion by the end of 1372 [20 March 1994], it would only succeed in leveling the nation's trade balance, because the nation's exports, with a best-case assessment of the current state of the oil market, even including nonoil products, will not go higher than $14 billion. This amount of foreign exchange will barely suffice to meet the need for subsidized goods, the Ministry of Petroleum's equipment and services, military equipment and interest on loans, and then there will nothing left to pay the principal on loans.

Moreover, foreign trade problems must not be assessed solely in light of the balance between imports and exports. Many of Iran's producing units are dependent on imported capital and intermediate goods, and suddenly depriving them of these goods could lead to their absolute destruction and the unemployment of hundreds of thousands of workers.

In this same regard Dr. Akbar Karbasian wrote in the 5 Dey [26 December] issue of RESALAT that the decisions of the Foreign Exchange Market Regulating Commission have exposed private companies to "the long and wide bureaucracy of the Ministry of Commerce. While they have to register their orders with that ministry (and not at the Central Bank), they are wandering between the Ministry of Commerce, the Central Bank and Iran Customs. What is not clear is, if there is a foreign exchange shortage, what are the nation's many producers, their personnel and their families going to do?"

Akbar Karbasian adds that even if the Foreign Exchange Regulating Committee's policymakers "can in the short term inject some calm into the nation's economic structure, which is now limping along, the long-term indicators such as the GDP, per-capita income, and new investment are on the decline."

To solve Iran's financial crisis, short-term and long-term measures are without a doubt more constructive than quick fixes for public consumption. Some Iranian experts say that to get out of the deadlock, the country should pay off its short-term debt as quickly as possible by getting new sources of foreign exchange on the international financial market in the form of long-term lower-interest loans. The only way to achieve this goal, however, is to hold a series of international talks, especially with the IMF and the World Bank. This will get the country out of its economic constraints, and it has to do with the Islamic Republic's foreign policy and its relations with the world community.

War Against 'Economic Hypocrites'

Despite the decisions by the Foreign Exchange Regulating Committee and the imposition of heavy pressure on imports, the future of the rial against the dollar remains quite uncertain. In this regard many rumors are circulating in the Islamic Republic's capital. Based on reports received from Tehran, some Central Bank experts are saying that based on the economic models they have that the price of the dollar will go to 280 tomans and will find relative stability at this level.

The drop in value of Iran's national currency, which is caused by severe social disruption in the country, is currently one of the hottest economic debates in the Islamic Republic's press. In its 28 Azar [19 December] issue the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes: "the problem of foreign exchange is more than an economic reality. It has now become an all-out war between the economic hypocrites and the government." This newspaper adds that the "economic hypocrites"

paraded in the playing field for several days by taking over the Islambul [a Tehran street] intersection, just as the "political hypocrites" tried to destroy the Islamic Republic by taking over Islamabad.

With regard to the difference between "political hypocrites" and "economic hypocrites," the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes that the first group, "with its savage actions, showed more than before the oppressed condition of Islamic officials." Now the second group, "with its actions, is causing people to be disappointed with the government's officials, and with the rumors it is circulating among the people, it is saying that even the government's top officials are acting with it, and this is to disperse the people away from the Islamic government."

The same newspaper adds: "More regrettable is the influence of those who have positioned themselves here and there in government organizations as specialists and are making the analysis that our national currency should fall even further to reach real parity."

The experts the newspaper refers to are in the Central Bank. As was mentioned, they put the parity rate of the rial and the dollar at 280 tomans.

'Ruinous' Policies

On the other hand, in its 24 Azar [3 November] issue the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published a very harshly worded editorial accusing Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, without mentioning the president of the republic's name, of implementing "ruinous" economic policies. This newspaper wrote: The unjustifiable silence of the nation's economic officials has reached an intolerable point, and it is still unclear whether this silence is a specific policy or whether our economic officials really have nothing to say.

In its editorial, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: Even those who defend the policy of unifying the foreign exchange rate, even those who consider it necessary at this time to implement the policies of economic adjustment, and even those who approve of simultaneous implementation of all these programs, fully acknowledge the truth that there is no economic justification of any kind for the instantaneous jump in the foreign exchange rate.

This newspaper says "unbridled imports" are the main cause in the drop in the value of Iran's national currency. It wrote: Even if we did not have the self-sufficiency slogan, even if we did not think in revolutionary terms, even if we were not thinking about deprived people and the owners of this revolution, we should not tolerate such ruinous decisions and economic policies, which open the country's doors to imports of everything. Today we are like someone who has drained the water out of his pond and is wondering why the fish do not have any water. Today we are aligning our national currency with foreign currencies at a time when our national economic and banking system are not ready and do not have the capacity to make such a change. With the water drained out of the pool, we still want to see the fish living and in the water.

Exports by Industrial Nations To Iran
(Figures in Millions of Dollars)

	1989	1990	1991	1992
Germany	1300	2350	4000	5300
Japan	922	1617	2525	2650
Italy (first 10 months)	554	1100	1800	1850
England	411	690	920	1022
France	360	600	915	770
America	0	166	527	748

Source: MEED

Imports by Industrial Nations From Iran
(Figures in Millions of Dollars)

	1989	1990	1991	1992
Germany	610	783	900	750
Japan	1792	3460	5870	2600
Italy (first 10 months)	809	1540	1688	1450
England	400	500	285	295
France	1035	1600	1370	1090
America	9	7	260	1

Source: MEED

Pakistan

Editorial Views Rise in Defense Spending

BK0203104494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Mar 94 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Budget: Big Rise in Defence Spending"]

[Text] Even though not entirely unexpected, a 20 percent jump in India's military expenditure in its 1994-95 federal budget unveiled on Monday will be a matter of concern for many in the region and outside. It is a poor response to the new emerging compulsions of the post-cold war era as well as to new opportunities and the search for a possible reversal of the decades long arms race in South Asia. Above all it hardly helps those in Pakistan genuinely desirous of achieving a better equilibrium between its requirements of legitimate defence and development needs. If India, which is already spending more than dollars six billion on defence continues to feel insecure internally and externally, notwithstanding its huge size and relatively much more developed industrial base, how can Pakistan lower its guards with a more sensitive strategic location, lack of depth and limited industrial potential. India's proposed military spending of dollars 7.6 billion for the new fiscal year is up by dollars 1.27 billion and covers much than what is justifiable by its inflation rate of 8.5 percent. The substantial new increase is reportedly the highest since 1986-87 when it recorded the highest jump of over 31 percent. On the whole the military spending maintains the tempo introduced into it since 1982-83. Apart from the three services, the border security force has also a higher allocation.

In its other features the Indian budget now indicates a new flexibility to break the rigid postures of the past few decades and respond more energetically to the new economic changes of the day. Indian finance minister has eased access to foreign exchange in a bid to move towards a full float of the Indian rupee. Domestic industry is being exposed to greater foreign competition by reducing custom duties on imports. Taxable incomes now have higher exemption limit while corporate tax rate has been substantially lowered. Credit will also be cheap with the banks lending rated slashed. But the lowering of external tariff has been balanced by some concessions to domestic industry to pull it out of the recession of the past two years. Such measures undoubtedly will further reinforce the process of the profound economic change set in motion in India since 1991 to open its economy to foreign investors. Whether India can execute the process of the market-oriented economic reforms and achieve a balanced socioeconomic growth without containing her military spending is an open question. But Pakistani planners and economic policy makers need to closely monitor India's new moves to put it on the global investment radar screen, as emphasised by an Indian official recently. For a long time we have been used to superficial comparison of ours and the Indian economy. In a changing international and regional environment it is necessary to shed a complacent view and develop a more informed and critical understanding of the economic changes in India.

Editorial Says NATO Action in Bosnia Due to 'Shame'

BK0203101494 Islamabad THE NATION in English 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "First Action in Bosnia"]

[Text] The shooting down of four Serb ground attack planes by NATO may have been prompted to demonstrate that it really means business by enforcing UN Resolution 816 on the Bosnian no-fly zone. Repeated violations by both Serb aircraft and helicopters have been taking place since April 1993 when the UN first enforced the ban. NATO showed little inclination and even less resolve to punish the violators. Now that they have done so, one has some ground to conclude that it was due to either a sense of shame or guilt at allowing the Serbs to continue with their massacre of the Muslims, as the world media looked on. Whatever the reason, the NATO action, belated though it has been needs to be commended in the hope that this will not turn out to be just a solo exception to Europe's consistent policy of turning a blind eye to whatever the Serbs were doing in Bosnia. The reason why this reservation has to be articulated is that both the UN and the NATO have by their inaction, through default or design, helped the Serbs, steeped as their hands are in Muslim blood. [sentence as published] The latest manifestation of that is NATO's reluctance to bomb those heavy weapons of the Serbs which have neither been pulled back from around Sarajevo nor handed over to the UN peacekeepers as specifically stipulated in the UN ultimatum. Canadian General Aikman on duty with the UN forces, has revealed to the international press that six Serb tanks deployed round Sarajevo were taken out by the Serbs in clear violation of the terms of the ultimatum. And these are now likely to be used by them on other fronts.

No reason has so far been given by the UN for allowing Serbs to continue their bombing of other Muslim enclaves, most notably Tuzla. Tuzla and half a dozen other Muslim enclaves are surrounded by the Serbs with their heavy guns just as Sarajevo was. The UN must now take next logical step and save those cities too—that is, if it is really interested in restoring its credibility in the international community.

Editorial Chides NATO for Not Using Force 'Earlier'

BK0203094894 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Too Little, Too Late"]

[Text] NATO has used force the first time to prvent the violation of the "no-fly zone" set up by the United

Nations over Bosnia-Herzegovina about a year ago. Its planes have shot down four Serbian military aircraft while they were returning after shelling an arms factory under Muslim control in Bosnia. The shooting was carried out after Serb pilots ignored the warning to land. Six jets operating from a base in Italy were involved in the assault mission.

The ban on flights over Bosnia was imposed by the UN Security Council on April 12, 1993. Since then NATO aircraft monitoring the zone detected several violations of the restriction but refrained from taking any action against the culprits. It was a serious lapse and negated the very purpose of the mandate given by the Security Council. Had force been used earlier against the defiance of the ban. It would have certainly helped in reducing the enormity of Sebian aggression and savagery against the severeign government and people of Bosnia. Meanwhile, a statement issued on Monday by the Pakistan Government rightly points out that the UN ultimatum for the withdrawal of heavy weapons from Sarajevo has not been fully implemented. The Serbs are still keeping their heavy arms in position at several points in the exclusion zone and these continue to pose a threat to the beleaguered people of the Bosnian capital. The Serbs are also redeploying the equipment removed from Sarajevo against other Muslim enclaves in Bosnia. The UN must act quickly and strongly to stop this criminal adventure. Further, the removal of heavy arms from Sarajevo alone will not bring an end to the misery and deprivation of Sarajevo population. The world body ought to take appropriate steps to ensure the restoration of essential services and opening of routes to and from the capital. Equally vital is the cessation of hostilities throughout Bosnia in order to facilitate the process of peace. There is no denying that the international community can do a lot in settling the Bosnian conflict justly and equitably if it exercises the neccessary resolution and firmness in this regard. Much of the onus falls on the Western powers including the US. They must not hesitate any more to match their words with deeds.